

# Gorbachev, Yeltsin drive to stem Soviet disintegration

Seek to defend ruling stratum, take aim at workers' rights

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian republic, have united to propose a new federal structure based directly on the regimes in 10 participating republics.

They hope to regain a measure of stability for the ruling regime, defend the interests of the bureaucratic stratum in the Soviet Union,

and block steps by working people, who are attempting to extend their rights and political space.

Key to the defeat of the August 19 coup was the action of tens of thousands of workers in Moscow, Leningrad, and elsewhere who defied the government's tanks, defended the democratic rights they had won in recent years, and in the process widened the space

to advance their interests through demonstrations, debates, and political organization.

In the wake of the coup both the Communist Party (CP) and the secret police (the KGB) — central pillars of bureaucratic rule for many decades — have been severely weakened. As the coup collapsed, crowds of workers in Moscow, Leningrad, and throughout the republics vented their anger against

these organizations, seen as the main vehicles of repression used by successive Stalinist regimes. Statues and other symbols of these hated institutions were torn down.

Faced with the explosive potential of these protests, Gorbachev moved rapidly to distance himself from the two institutions, which for many years he himself had been responsible for as CP general secretary and head of the Soviet government.

Gorbachev announced a purge of the KGB, including the arrest of the leadership of the division responsible for security for top officials, the division that had detained him during the coup. Paramilitary units of the KGB were placed under regular military command. The so-called reformers were placed in charge of the organization and told to replace the entire top KGB leadership.

Vadim Bakatin, Gorbachev's appointee as new KGB head, announced that informers would no longer be used by the KGB, declaring the organization would no longer operate as a secret political force. Bakatin also stressed that the secret police would work "with the republics, not over them."

The secret police, with hundreds of thousands of spies, and with its own armed forces, prisons, and torture chambers, has for decades framed up and intimidated millions of opponents and potential opponents of the regime.

But despite the announced purge, the KGB remains intact as the regime's main agency of repression, both at the center and in the republics.

On August 29 the Soviet parliament voted to suspend all activities of the Communist Party, pending an investigation of its role in the coup. The organization's property and archives were taken over by the Interior Ministry.

The CP, along with the KGB, has for many decades been an integral part of maintaining the rule of the bureaucracy. Since Stalin beheaded the Communist Party in the late 1920s and 1930s, murdering those who had led the 1917 revolution, the CP's function has been as an instrument of continuing repression, a watchdog on dissenters at all levels of society, and a machine for career advancement for the privileged ruling layer.

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## 250,000 unionists converge on Capitol for AFL-CIO Solidarity Day '91 rally

BY SETH GALINSKY  
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "It's great that thousands of us came together here," said Connie Jones, a hospital worker from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She was on her way to join a 10,000-strong contingent of her fellow union members from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

"Solidarity is necessary," Jones added. "Together we can fight for everyone against what affects us, from unemployment to lack of health care to racism."

The AFSCME contingent was at the head of the August 31 march of 250,000 unionists and others that culminated in a rally in front of the U.S. Capitol. Billed "Solidarity Day '91," the Labor Day weekend action — which took place in sweltering 97-degree heat — was called by the AFL-CIO. It was supported by more than 180 civil rights, religious, women's rights, and other organizations.

The march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol was a colorful but not very vocal parade as thousands of unionists swelled its ranks with bright T-shirts and printed placards. Virtually every AFL-CIO-affiliated union participated in the march and rally. The crowd was relatively older and included thousands of Black, Latino, and women workers.

"What do we want? — Health care!, When do we want it? — Now!" chanted



Part of huge crowd at Solidarity Day '91

thousands of workers marching behind a truck with a huge sign advertising their union, the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). "No more scabs. Pass H.R. 5 and S. 55" was among the most popular slogans on placards, referring to two bills, introduced in the House and the Senate re-

spectively, that would bar employers from hiring scabs as permanent replacement workers during a strike.

Another slogan that appeared on many signs and banners was "Civil rights now." It was presented along with demands for overriding a veto threatened by President

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## 'Militant' subscription drive begins; supporters set Sept. 21 target week

BY RONI McCANN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Results from the first weekend of an international subscription campaign launched on August 31 show both the openings that exist today for winning new readers to the communist press and the campaign spirit needed for the entire nine-week effort to make the drive a success.

Militant supporters will win 3,600 subscribers to the *Militant*, 800 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 140 to *L'internationaliste* along with selling 1,600 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* by November 2.

Supporters in cities listed in the sales drive chart are placing the campaign at the center of their political work this fall. They plan to use the campaign to expand their influence among the working class, reach out to students and youth, and bring the socialist press to those involved in political discussion, debate, and activity in the

cities and areas where they live.

With the drive now under way, each city should review their goals with an eye toward raising them in order to reach the 6,200 mark.

A special eight-day target sales week has been called for September 21-28. *Militant* supporters around the world are making plans now to pull out all the stops during the week-long sales blitz.

Supporters kicked off the drive at the AFL-CIO-sponsored Solidarity Day '91 march and rally of hundreds of thousands of trade unionists and other workers August 31.

On union buses, planes, and trains coming into the city for the event and throughout the course of the day workers, young people, and other participants bought 849 copies and 46 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 17 copies and 5 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 13 *New Internationals*.

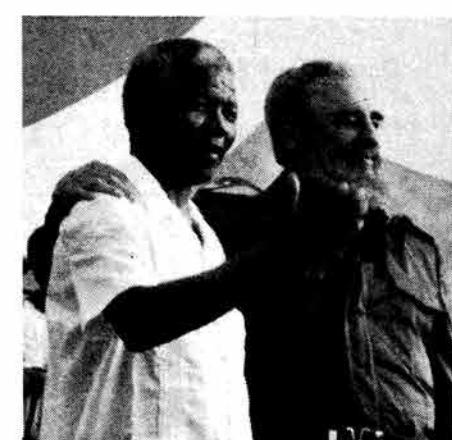
A union auto worker from Kansas City  
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# Protests hit cop killing of Brooklyn youth

BY DEREK BRACEY

NEW YORK — The August 25 cop killing of a 19-year-old Black youth in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn has sparked daily protests. Residents are outraged at the shooting of Andel "Tony" Amos. Demonstrations have called for a murder indictment against Jeffrey Hutton, the cop who shot Amos six times.

The police say that they were responding to a call about someone shooting into the air when they stopped Amos. The cops say that during questioning Amos pulled a gun and aimed it at Hutton's partner, Emmanuel González.

They say that Amos and González struggled over the gun and that Hutton shot Amos when the gun was pointed at González's head. The cops initially said that Amos was shot four times in the chest and face. The medical examiner stated that Amos had six bullet wounds, including two in the back.

Witnesses say that Amos was unarmed when he was shot. At a news conference called by the family, one eyewitness, Guillermo Simmons, said that González pulled a gun from Amos's belt, and Amos grabbed it back. After a struggle Amos dropped the gun and raised his hands. He said, "O.K., you got it, you got it," then turned and ran. That is when Hutton stepped from behind a van and emptied his revolver into Amos's back, Simmons said.

After shooting him the police handcuffed Amos and took him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. A crowd immediately gathered and accused the cops of murder.

The next morning, Bridget Amos, Tony's mother, went to the funeral of Gavin Cato, a Black child whose death sparked a social explosion in nearby Crown Heights. More than 1,000 people came to the service.

Crown Heights, which borders Flatbush, is where Cato and his cousin Angela were struck by a car and left pinned by it while police ordered an ambulance to ignore the children and take the car's driver, who was white, to the hospital.

On August 26, 300 people, including some youths who were at Cato's funeral, attended the first of several rallies demanding that the

cops be prosecuted for the murder of Amos. The family of Amos participated in the march, as well as many from the neighborhood.

The demonstrators marched through the central commercial district of Flatbush. At several points on the march route, there were brief speeches. Bridget Amos and Rohanna Amos, Tony's sister, spoke, as did Leonora Fulani, a leader of the New Alliance Party, and members of BlackWatch, a youth group organized around Black political activist Sonny Carson.

Rohanna Amos told this reporter that the cops have provided the family no explanation for their brutal treatment of the young man. "I want to know why they handcuffed him when they killed him," she said. About 250 cops surrounded the march and many additional cops were stationed throughout the neighborhood.

Some in the crowd yelled at the cops. One cop got into argument with a protester. "Why did you kill him?" she asked.

"Why did he have a gun?" the cop responded.

"Why did you have to shoot him so many times?" she yelled again.

"So it was humane. To make sure he was dead, so he didn't suffer," the cop replied.

BY JAMES HARRIS

NEW YORK — Opponents of Black rights are seeking to take advantage of anti-Semitic remarks made by a college professor who is Black to discredit the struggle against racism in education and the brutal treatment of Black youth by the city's police.

Leonard Jeffries, a City College professor, made the statements at the Empire State Black Arts and Cultural Festival in Albany, New York, July 20. Much of his speech focused on the need to reform the curriculum of the U.S. education system to rid it of its racial bias against Blacks.



Militant/Derek Bracey

Memorial at site of Crown Heights car accident which killed Gavin Cato

## Opponents of fight for Black rights seize on New York professor's anti-Semitic remarks

In 1990 a class action suit was filed on behalf of eight youths, who attend New York schools, against the New York City Board of Education, New York State Education Department, and U.S. Department of Education. The suit charges that the public school curriculum is biased and discriminatory because it omits the contributions and accomplishments of Africans and Afro-Americans, and provides a negative image of both.

Jeffries was a member of a state-appointed committee set up to evaluate the current curriculum of New York public schools. His evaluation had been negative.

The daily media has paid little attention to Blacks' right to a decent education, however. Instead, all attention has focused on a section of Jeffries' talk in which he argued that there is a Jewish-Mafia conspiracy to maintain the racist oppression of Black people. Jeffries said that Jews have had a special role in the oppression of Blacks that goes at least back to the time of modern slavery, especially in the United States.

"... I grew up as a youngster just like you did, going to movies where the African peoples were completely denigrated," said Jeffries. "That was a conspiracy planned and plotted and programmed out of Hollywood, where people called Greenberg and Weisberg and Trigiani and whatnot — it's not anti-Semitic to mention who developed Hollywood. Their names are there — MGM; Metro-Goldwin-Mayer; Adolph Zukor, Fox."

"Russian Jewry had a particular control over the movies, and their financial partners, the Mafia, put together a system of destruction of Black people."

After some of Jeffries' statements were published in the *New York Post*, a raft of articles appeared in the press on "Black anti-Semitism."

Some articles attempted to link his remarks to the social explosion that took place shortly thereafter in the Crown Heights area

of Brooklyn, where Black youth rebelled against the oppressive conditions under which they live in a series of protests and demonstrations that resulted in clashes with the police.

The incident that ignited the rebellion was a traffic accident in which a Black child was killed by a car driven by a Hasidic Jew.

During the protests Blacks in Crown Heights pointed to the gross inequalities between themselves and the largely middle-class Jewish enclave located in the community. The Hasidic sect headquartered there organizes armed patrols of the neighborhood, collaborates with the cops, and either justifies or turns a blind eye toward the social and economic conditions of Blacks in the area. The media has been playing up the rebellion as an "eruption of Black-Jewish violence."

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo said that Jeffries' comments were "so egregious that the City University ought to take action or explain why it doesn't." Columnists, politicians, and middle-class Jewish organizations have demanded Jeffries be fired.

When Jeffries returned from a trip to Africa on August 14, groups of his supporters and opponents both demonstrated at the airport.

His opponents were from a rightist group called Kahane Chai who chanted "Whether they are Black or white, racist Nazis we will fight." One member of Kahane Chai, Leon Kryzhanovsky, carried a 5-foot effigy of Jeffries on a wooden stick.

Jeffries, who has received death threats, left the airport under police guard.

A march of 500 people and a protest rally of 300 were organized in Jeffries' defense, along with several showings of a video of his speech. Alfred Sharpton has played a prominent role in supporting Jeffries.

The *City Sun*, a paper oriented to the New York Black community, devoted much of its August 21-27 issue to a discussion of the

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# Yugoslav workers repulsed by war but armed actions widen

BY SETH GALINSKY

Despite widespread revulsion by Yugoslav working people, the military conflict is escalating between armed forces in the Croatian region of Yugoslavia and Serbian nationalist guerrillas backed by the federal army.

The ruling stratum in Croatia, made up of Stalinist and bourgeois nationalist forces, declared the region "independent" from Yugoslavia June 25. Serbs make up about 11.5 percent of Croatia's 4.8 million population. A small minority of these Serbs are involved in guerrilla units, which have taken control of 15-20 percent of Croatian territory.

The present conflict stems from the attempts of the bureaucratic rulers in Croatia and Serbia to advance their own narrow interests in the midst of Yugoslavia's deep economic crisis and in the wake of the shattering of Stalinist domination of political life. They demagogically use nationalism as a weapon to bolster their position against their rivals and to divert workers and farmers from charting an independent class-struggle political course.

Most working people in the disputed territory and across the country — Serbs, Croats, and other nationalities — are disgusted with the fighting. "Everyone here got along well before," one Serb woman, fleeing the fighting along with Croats, said. "The politicians are guilty for this. The little people are not responsible."

Some 100,000 people demonstrated against the fighting at a concert in Sarajevo, the capital of the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of July. Artists from different parts of the country participated. Demonstrators carried signs saying "peace" and waved the Yugoslav flag.

Although claiming neutrality, the federal Yugoslav army has used planes and tanks against the Croatian forces. Some 125,000 refugees — both Serbs and Croats — have fled their homes to get out of the line of fire. About 400 people have died in the fighting.

## St. Louis supporters of framed-up unionist hold fundraising event

BY LISA POTASH

ST. LOUIS — Thirty supporters of the fight to win the release of the framed unionist and political activist Mark Curtis attended a barbecue here August 25 to raise funds needed for the international campaign leading up to Curtis' November parole hearing. Curtis is imprisoned in the Iowa Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, serving a twenty-five year sentence on phony rape and burglary charges.

Participants included members of the United Steelworkers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, United Auto Workers, and International Association of Machinists unions, as well as one farmer and other activists.

A carload of Curtis supporters had just returned from Wichita, where they had joined the April 24 march for the right of women to choose abortion. They reported a warm response from pro-choice marchers to a Curtis defense committee literature table.

The focus of the barbecue was a slide show presentation and report given by Priscilla Schenk, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines. Schenk recently toured Mexico where she spoke with unionists, youth, and human rights advocates about the Curtis fight, winning important new support for the international campaign to free him.

The thirty activists present at the barbecue pledged to intensify their efforts to secure letters from prominent figures in the area urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to release Curtis.

Entertainment was provided by Fred Stanton and Eddie Starr, both of whom wrote and sang their own material, including one song about Curtis.

The event raised \$400 for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines.

in the last two months, most of them Croatian police and national guardsmen. Attempted cease-fires, including one in early August, have failed. More than 65 have died in the last two weeks.

There are at least nine different ethnic groups in Yugoslavia, the largest being Serbs, Croats, Muslims, Albanians, and Slovenes. While there are distinct republics where these groups are centered, many of them are also dispersed widely through the country. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, which borders Croatia, the population is roughly 43 percent Muslim, 35 percent Serb, and 21 percent Croat. They often live together on the same streets. In Croatia itself intermarriage among Serbs and Croats is frequent.

### Atrocities against Serbs and Croats

Soon after it was elected in April 1990, the Croatian government, headed by former Communist Party leader Franjo Tudjman, began taking measures against the Serbian minority. Beginning a process of "Croatization," the Tudjman government aimed to reduce the number of Serbs in local police forces and town councils. Croatia is one of Yugoslavia's most economically developed republics.

Meanwhile, the Serbian government, led by Slobodan Milosevic — head of the Socialist Party, formerly the Serbian wing of the Stalinist League of Communists, which disintegrated last year — promoted uprisings by Serbian guerrillas in Croatia. The Milosevic government encouraged the Serbs in Croatia to demand autonomy for the region of Krajina, where many of them live. The Croatian government has until very recently refused to recognize autonomy.

The Serbian government has said that if Croatia and Slovenia are independent, then the Serbian areas of Croatia should be independent or incorporated into Serbia. Croatian leaders charge that Milosevic seeks to forge a "Greater Serbia" at Croatia's expense.

In Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and also of Yugoslavia, 400 Slovenian and Croatian enterprises have been expropriated by Serbian concerns. Slovenia, to the north of Croatia, declared its independence June 25. In Serb-held counties of Croatia, stores owned by Croatians and ethnic Albanians have been bombed, as have Serb-owned businesses and vacation cottages in predominantly Croatian-populated areas.

### Croatian forces outgunned

The fighting has centered on military conflicts between Croatian police and national guardsmen on one side, and Serbian guerrillas



Fighting stems from rivalry between ruling layers in different regions of Yugoslavia

las backed by the Yugoslav army on the other. Both the Croatian and Serbian forces have been responsible for atrocities during the conflict, attacking unarmed civilians who are bystanders to the battles.

Seventy percent of the federal army's officers are Serbs although the troops are drawn from across the country and include Croats, Slovenes, Hungarians, and Albanians. Ostensibly the army of all of Yugoslavia, more and more it has acted as the army of the Stalinist regime in Serbia, with the official federal government of Yugoslavia increasingly irrelevant.

The Croatian forces have been overwhelmingly outgunned by the Serbian forces and have not been able to hold onto one town since the offensive began.

This contrasts with Belgrade's failure, in relying entirely on the army to quash the Slovenian rulers' move in late June and early July, to assert control over all economic resources and institutions in Slovenian territory. At that time, hundreds of soldiers deserted, demonstrators in Croatia blocked troops heading for Slovenia, and marchers in Belgrade protested sending Serbian youth to the conflict.

In moving against Croatia, the Serbian regime this time relied on thousands of well-armed guerrilla troops, with the army in more of a support role — strafing villages, dropping cluster bombs, and backing up the Serbian guerrillas with tanks and mortars.

The civil war has accelerated the crisis of the Yugoslav economy. Industrial production is expected to drop 50 percent in 1991. Unemployment is up to 20 percent in parts of the country. Tourism, a central activity, has disappeared. Bank and commercial transactions between the republics have been disrupted.

### Legacy of 1945 revolution

The current fighting is the opposite of the progress made in Yugoslavia with the 1945-1946 revolution that expelled the German invaders, defeated the local fascists, and overturned capitalist property

relations.

Partisan fighters during World War II fought against the German army and local fascists, and organized around a program of opposition to all forms of national chauvinism and support for social progress for working people.

This liberation army brought together workers and peasants of Serbian, Croatian, and Slovenian descent. The new government that came to power through the forging of this unity opened the door to further progress. A far-ranging land reform was implemented, giving land to small peasants. Industry was nationalized and the basis of a planned economy put in place.

But instead of making further advances on the road of deepening the consciousness, unity, self-confidence, participation, and mobilization of toilers in Yugoslavia, the League of Communists, which led the new government, adopted Stalinist methods in defense of the narrow interests of the developing bureaucracy and against the interests of working people.

In spite of the wearing away of many of the gains of the revolution, its impact can still be seen both in the nationalized economy and in the attitude of many working people in Yugoslavia who disagree with the policies of the bureaucratic cliques that are promoting national chauvinism, whether in its Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian or other guises.

"For 41 years nobody asked me whether I was a Serb or a Croat. I was a Yugoslavian," Vukasin Stevon told the British *Guardian*. "I do not want to shoot Serbs, but I will defend Croatia because Croatia is my country." Stevon blamed the fighting on "Tudjman and Milosevic both."

Gavran Blazen is a 26-year-old bartender. His mother is Serb and his father Croat. "I'm Yugoslav," he said after the start of the fighting. "I can't find my nation."

## Omaha forum discusses GI rights

BY GREG PRESTON

OMAHA — At a Militant Labor Forum here August 3, entitled "The Fight for Democratic Rights for GIs," the free-speech rights of citizen-soldiers was discussed by a three-member panel.

Dan Cobos was a Spanish linguist attached to military intelligence in the U.S. Air Force during the height of the U.S. war against the people of Nicaragua. He explained to the audience that after attending events sponsored by local solidarity groups and meeting Central Americans, he could no longer carry out his work in the air force. He then filed for a discharge as a conscientious objector.

Making his case public won him broad support from anti-intervention activists and civil libertarians in the Omaha area, he said. This backing helped him win an honorable discharge.

Active-duty GI Jason Coughlin also spoke at the meeting. Coughlin is stationed at Offutt Air Force Base here. During Washington's war against the Iraqi people Coughlin began questioning "what role and function the U.S. military plays in the world." Coughlin met the Young Socialist Alliance at a literature table in an area of town young people frequent.

"It was after I met the YSA that my discussions with coworkers and others became

more political," Coughlin said. This in turn attracted the attention of his commanding officer, resulting in Coughlin being interrogated about his political views and activity.

Coughlin, along with another active duty airman, Jeffrey South, attended the Socialist Workers Party convention in late June where they joined the Young Socialist Alliance. Following the convention, the military brass called Coughlin in for another round of questioning and threatened to suspend his top-secret security clearance.

At this point, Coughlin decided to approach a civilian attorney to establish legal backing for his democratic rights. In a July 5 meeting with air force officials, and with his lawyer present, Coughlin was told that his security clearance was being suspended pending an "investigation." No new moves have been made against Coughlin since.

Both Coughlin and South are interested in continuing their political activity while serving out their terms of service in the air force. Both attend and help build political activities off base, on their own time, and out of uniform. They observe all air force regulations while at the same time insisting on their right to hold and express political views.

Over the past few weeks supporters of democratic rights have been working to build

a network of support for the two airmen. Six prominent community activists signed their names to a letter that explains the situation and calls on others to lend their political and material support to the effort. Funds are needed to help defray accrued legal fees.

Coughlin, South, and their supporters want to reach out and continue to build a network of support in preparation for any further moves by military officials. "It's important for as many people as possible to be familiar with the situation and be prepared to lend a hand on our behalf if it becomes necessary," Coughlin said.

Andrew Pulley, a Vietnam-era veteran, also spoke. He led GIs United Against the War during the U.S. aggression against the Vietnamese people. Pulley explained that it is not only socialists or revolutionary-minded GIs who catch the attention of the military officials.

"What really gets the brass' attention is open opposition to what they are doing — their policies, not your political affiliation," Pulley said. He said the "best way for GIs and anyone else to defend their democratic rights is to use them."

After an appeal for funds made by the chairperson, forum-goers donated thirty dollars toward legal expenses for the two airmen.

# France attacks refugees seeking asylum

BY DEREK JEFFERS

PARIS — The French government has put into effect a law eliminating immigrants' right to work while waiting for ruling on their refugee status. Until recently anyone asking for political asylum in France was given a temporary work permit while his or her application was examined.

Thousands of refugees in France are fighting to win political asylum. The movement of *déboutés*—those who have been refused asylum—has organized demonstrations numbering up to 10,000 along with hunger strikes.

Fifty refugees in Paris are reaching a critical stage in their hunger strike, which began July 3. Hunger strikes by refugees in Orléans and Bourges were ended at the beginning of August after government representatives promised their applications would receive special attention.

The applications are to be examined in a "humanitarian spirit" and the officials have promised to "also take into account the suffering caused by the hunger strike."

Hundreds of refugees across France began a hunger strike in May in reaction to widespread expulsion orders of asylum-seekers by the government.

The government has begun expediting the appeals procedure, a process that usually took several years. Now nearly 90 percent of all applications are being rejected without even interviewing the candidates.

Two of the main union federations, the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and the French Democratic Federation of Labor (CFDT), have backed the protests. As a result, the government was forced to temporarily back off in June and stop the expulsions while it prepared a new law on the refugees.

When the law was announced July 23, the government made a special one-time provision for the re-examination of applications already refused. The government estimated that 25,000 *déboutés* would be granted asylum under this exception.

After publication of the law, however, and the initial experience of immigrants reappearing, leaders of the movement calculate that fewer than 4,000 of the estimated 80,000 *déboutés* will be able to benefit from this exception, unless conditions are relaxed.

Conditions for those applying are severe. For instance *déboutés* must be able to prove they had waited at least three years from the time the first application was made to the final refusal. The applicant must have worked legally at least two years during this time and be either currently employed or promised a job.

Applications must be made by November. Those who are refused have their documents confiscated and receive a letter stating they have one month to leave France.



Militant/Derek Jeffers  
"Papers for those denied asylum" demands banner outside Paris hunger strike.

## Protests condemn attacks on abortion clinics

BY GAIL SMITH

LOS ANGELES — More than 800 women's rights supporters rallied August 24, proclaiming it Women's Equality Day. The rally, sponsored by the Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), was part of an abortion rights weekend that included the defense of a local abortion clinic and a rally protesting the Supreme Court ruling saying doctors at medical facilities that receive federal funding cannot advise women of the option to have an abortion.

Tammy Bruce, president of Los Angeles NOW, opened the rally with the warning that a fight must be waged to defend the right to abortion. "For poor women it's gone, as it is for young women, and many women of oppressed nationalities. We've got to get it back," she said.

Loud applause greeted the announcement that 5,000 pro-choice supporters had mobilized in Wichita, Kansas, that same day.

Kathy Spillar, speaking as the national coordinator of The Feminist Majority, said, "We can't rely on the courts, we must depend on ourselves so that there will never be another Wichita. And when these issues come before the Supreme Court this fall we must mobilize in unprecedented numbers."

Getting out the vote and electing more women to office was proposed by most speakers as the main action abortion rights supporters should take.

Numerous politicians, entertainers, and representatives of religious, feminist, and health organizations made up the panel of speakers. Constant honking from passersby expressed broad solidarity with the pro-choice rally.

BY JOE SWANSON

FREMONT, California — Shouting, "Who will keep the clinics open? We will! We will!" 300 people, the majority high school and college students, held a picket line and rally at the entrance to a meeting of Operation Rescue August 17.

The Operation Rescue meeting of 300 was to begin a week of attacks on seven Planned Parenthood clinics in the Bay Area that had been targeted.

A representative of the Bay Area Coalition on Reproductive Rights (BACORR), one of the endorsers of the picket line, said at the rally that those who organize Operation Rescue are the same ones who bomb abortion clinics and that supporters of women's rights are not going to allow a "Wichita" to happen here.

Brian Gibbs, Young Socialist Alliance leader and Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Francisco county sheriff, was interviewed by KQED radio at the picket line.

Gibbs explained that the Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion, *Roe v. Wade*, is the law of the land. He encouraged unionists and other defenders of democratic rights to hold more street actions to defend women's right to choose abortion.

Announcements at the picket line included a call to organize people to defend the Bay Area clinics and a pro-choice march and rally in San Francisco October 5, sponsored by the San Francisco Area Pro-Choice Coalition.

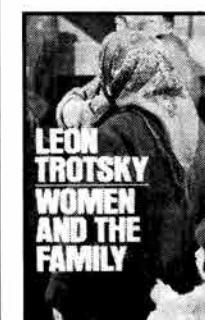
four hours' notice.

Terry's visit was prompted by some mild criticisms Bush made of Operation Rescue's tactics in Wichita as he was preparing to veto a federal appropriations bill for Washington, D.C., because the bill would have permitted the use of local funds to pay for abortions for poor women.

The presence of the demonstrators was obviously a shock to Terry. After a press conference where Terry complained that Operation Rescue's activities in Wichita have been "misrepresented to the president," he was answered with chants of "Operation Rescue, your name's a lie. You don't care if women die!" The protest followed Terry through the airport to the baggage claim area and then outside to his car.

Ellen Zucker, president of the National Organization for Women in Boston, said, "We intend to make sure that the lies he perpetuates about Operation Rescue are answered by a strong abortion rights response." The demonstration was the lead story on the local news that night.

## Books about Marxism and fight to emancipate women



**Women and the Family**,  
by Leon Trotsky. The impact of the Russian revolution on women's fight for equality. 78 pp. \$8.95.

**Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle**, by Thomas Sankara, 36 pp. \$2.50.

**Women and the Cuban Revolution**, Speeches and Documents by Fidel Castro, Vilma Espín, and others. Edited by Elizabeth Stone. 156 pp. \$12.95.

**Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women**, by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. 138 pp. \$11.95.

**Feminism and the Marxist Movement**, by Mary-Alice Waters. 43 pp. \$2.50.

**Women and the Socialist Revolution**, by Mary-Alice Waters. 30 pp. \$2.00.

Available from bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, New York 10014. Please include \$3.00 for postage and handling for first title, \$.50 each additional title.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

ARTHUR HUGHES

**Pathfinder**, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

When Pathfinder learned that the South African revolutionary Nelson Mandela was coming to the Caribbean and Latin America for his first visit to several countries there, Pathfinder representatives were dispatched to Jamaica and Mexico. They provided the books that those who were to welcome him needed to read.

Pathfinder has been publishing Mandela's writings since 1986. These include his autobiography *The Struggle Is My Life*, a booklet of his speeches given last year after his release from prison, and two titles in Spanish: *Habla Nelson Mandela* (Nelson Mandela Speaks) and *Intensifiquemos la lucha* (Intensify the Struggle, a translation of his 1990 speeches).

After a tumultuous visit to Jamaica, where tens of thousands greeted him in the streets of Kingston July 24, the African National Congress president proceeded on to Cuba. There, he and Cuban President Fidel Castro addressed a mass rally July 26 commemorating the beginning of the Cuban revolution. A Pathfinder book containing both these speeches, entitled *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, will be available this month.

Pathfinder representatives Martín Koppel and Susan Apstein arrived in Mexico four days in advance of the South African leader.

The Pathfinder sales team became virtually the only source of Mandela's books during his Mexico tour. Reporters at his press conference and talk at the Ministry of Foreign Relations relied on the Pathfinder representatives for Mandela's writings. Sales were made on the spot.

During their week in Mexico City, Koppel and Apstein placed orders at five important bookstores and set up an ac-

count with a distributor from which other Mexican stores can order.

Many bookstore managers said it was the first time they had been visited by a U.S. publisher, and one said he planned to make a special table display of Pathfinder books. Since the Mexican media provided very little advance notice of Mandela's visit, the bookstores learned of it from the sales representatives.

Interest in Pathfinder books was not limited to Mandela, nor to Spanish titles exclusively. The distributor and five bookstores all are now selling the first issue of the Marxist journal *Nueva Internacional*, which is distributed by Pathfinder. It contains the article "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." Its availability in Mexico now makes a communist analysis of the recent imperialist war accessible to readers there. Koppel and Apstein said store managers noted that nothing like the *Nueva Internacional* article was previously available in Spanish.

Nearly 1,000 books were placed at the six outlets during the week. Other Pathfinder titles by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and Malcolm X were purchased as well.

The sales trip laid the basis for Pathfinder's long-term goal of having ongoing sales in Mexico of the writings of revolutionary leaders such as Mandela.

At a recent national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance held in Oberlin, Ohio, 14 participants joined the Pathfinder Readers Club, which provides special discounts to those who are members. For \$10 a year members get 15 percent off the list price of Pathfinder books.

Pathfinder's upcoming two-volume set, documenting the Second Congress of the Communist International (1920), is being offered to Pathfinder Readers' Club members at a special prepublication discount of 25 percent. For \$45 they can get *Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples, Unite!* until November 1.

# 'Militant' subscription campaign begins

Continued from front page

and her friend remembered the *Militant* because a coworker used to bring it into work there. She decided to subscribe.

On an International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union-sponsored bus from New York City three Spanish-speaking workers decided to sign up for *Perspectiva Mundial*. A Philadelphia oil refinery worker sold two *Militant* subscriptions on the way to the action as did a union airline worker from Miami.

A student from Georgetown University bought the latest copy of the *Militant* and spent several minutes talking at one of many Pathfinder literature tables. He wanted to know what impact the events in the Soviet Union will have on the world revolution, whether or not the capitalist system can be reformed, and if socialism can be built in one country alone.

As in dozens of other discussions, *Militant* supporters pointed to the paper as an ongoing source of news and analysis on these and other questions facing working people. They explained that the victory of working people in the Soviet Union over the recent coup attempt was a result of their determination to defend their hard-won political space.

Broadening the right to discuss, organize, and wage struggles against the designs of both the plotters and those who run the USSR today is essential in working people there coming back into the world class struggle. The student decided to sign up to get more information on activities of the Young Socialist Alliance chapter here.

*Militant* supporters in Pittsburgh stopped at the Breezewood rest stop along

the main route into Washington, D.C. Forty-one coal miners, steelworkers, and other unionists got the paper on their way to the march.

A worker from Crown Heights, Brooklyn, signed a subscription card to be contacted in the future. He was interested in the coverage on the social explosion and cop violence that has taken place in his community and the *Militant's* ongoing coverage of the fight against police brutality. Dozens of other unionists wanted to find out more about the rightist assault on clinics that perform abortions in Wichita, Kansas, and discuss why the labor movement needs to lead a response to similar attacks on democratic rights.

## Make the first week a success

Getting out with the *Militant* at the action and working to engage unionists, young people, and others in the kind of political discussion that can lead to winning new subscribers helped supporters gear up for the nine-week drive ahead.

Here in Washington, D.C., *Militant* supporters plan to use the momentum they gained during the opening weekend to make the first week a success and get the drive off to a strong start.

*Militant* supporters from D.C. sold 104 copies and 8 subscriptions to the *Militant* on the first day of the drive, along with 2 issues of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

They then mapped out an action sales plan for the week. The local chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance adopted a goal of winning 77 new readers in the course

of the campaign. They plan to concentrate their efforts on two campuses, Georgetown and Howard Universities.

## Good start in Salt Lake City

*Militant* supporters in Salt Lake City, Utah, got off to a good start the opening weekend of the campaign. They set a goal for the week of winning 15 new subscribers and won 8 on the first Saturday alone.

Supporters fanned out around the city and set up a number of socialist campaign tables on street corners and in shopping areas. Through their initial efforts team members met two high school students who later asked to join the YSA.

## Building long-term readership

*Militant* supporters have discussed over the past months the need to increase both the year-round sales of the paper and the number of those subscribing to the socialist press. This is one of the most important ways supporters can bring a working-class perspective

to fighters today and become a more integral part of the political developments in their cities.

The subscription campaign is the way supporters plan to get into the kind of weekly sales efforts that can be a hallmark of their political activity 52 weeks of the year. Establishing Saturday as a day of aggressive sales activity is a key part of achieving this goal.

By going door-to-door in working-class communities, selling to students on campuses, and attending protests and other political activities, supporters plan to get into the hands of fighters the weapons they need — the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'internationaliste*.

Please send any short remarks on how the campaign is going in your city to the *Militant* and get all your subscriptions sent in by Friday. Next week the *Militant* will print the first scoreboard.

On to 6,200 new readers!



Militant/Steve Marshall

Young Socialist Alliance members sell *Militant* at pro-choice rally in Wichita, Kansas.

## Wichita sales team gets wide range of opinions on rightists

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD AND ELIZABETH SWENSON

WICHITA, Kansas — Participants in the August 24 pro-choice rally and an open house after the event sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party bought 347 single copies and 11 subscriptions to the *Militant*. An additional 81 copies of the *Militant*, 2 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 7 *Militant* subscriptions were sold in working-class communities that weekend.

In the days following the rally, which protested Operation Rescue's violent assaults on clinics performing abortions here, a team of *Militant* supporters engaged in numerous discussions on abortion rights, democratic rights, and the nature of the rightist attacks with working people and youth in the area.

"What bothers me is that Operation Rescue is messing with people's basic rights," a student at Wichita State University (WSU) said as she bought a *Militant*.

"I like babies," a woman worker at the Boeing aircraft plant said to a plant-gate sales team. She walked a few yards toward her car and yelled back, "You don't even have the right to be here. This is Boeing's property!"

A member of the International Association of Machinists at the Boeing plant gate, who had purchased a *Militant* subscription the week before, stopped and explained that most workers at the plant opposed Operation Rescue. Contrasting the gentle treatment of rightists by the police, the unionist said, "That's not how the cops treated us when we went on strike in 1989."

A student at WSU disagreed with team members, who pointed to the need for more massive countermobilizations against rightist assaults. "It's good that pro-choice forces didn't respond to Operation Rescue," she said. "We let the police arrest them. Operation Rescue made fools out of themselves, and now they're leaving town."

A farmer who subscribed to the *Militant* questioned why women's rights groups did not organize a massive countercampaign. "It's been my experience in politics that if you sit back and don't do anything, you just get overrun," he said.

Nineteen students and campus workers attended a meeting sponsored by the YSA Aug. 30 at WSU on "The rightist assault in Wichita: The stakes for working people and students." Mary Zins, a leader of the SWP and member of the United Mine Workers of America, and Robert Johnson, a new member of the YSA in Wichita, were the featured speakers at the meeting.

"These ideas are wonderful," said an Asian student. "You couldn't have a meeting like this in Singapore. And if these people [the rightists] aren't stopped, you won't be able to have one here."

Seven students and workers have joined the YSA in this area since August 16. In the week following the August 24 rally, the team sold 169 *Militants* and 14 subscriptions. All told, 1,012 copies of the *Militant*, 7 *Perspectiva Mundials*, and 1 *L'internationaliste* were sold. A total of 52 *Militant* subscriptions and 7 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions were purchased by workers and youth in the area.

## Sales Drive Goals

	<i>The Militant</i>			<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i>			<i>New Int'l*</i>		<i>L'int'l*</i>		Total
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Atlanta	90	0	0%	12	0	56	0	2	0	160	0
Baltimore	85	0	0%	12	0	40	0	3	0	140	0
Birmingham, Ala.	110	0	0%	5	0	43	0	2	0	160	0
Boston	110	0	0%	30	0	50	0	5	0	195	0
Chicago	163	0	0%	40	0	70	0	2	0	275	0
Cleveland	85	0	0%	10	0	25	0	2	0	122	0
Des Moines, Iowa	126	0	0%	17	0	40	0	2	0	185	0
Detroit	102	0	0%	10	0	30	0	2	0	144	0
Greensboro, NC	55	0	0%	10	0	14	0	1	0	80	0
Houston	75	0	0%	20	0	30	0	2	0	127	0
Los Angeles	160	0	0%	90	0	107	0	3	0	360	0
Miami	86	0	0%	30	0	44	0	5	0	165	0
Morgantown, WV	80	0	0%	3	0	30	0	2	0	115	0
New York	225	0	0%	80	0	110	0	10	0	425	0
Newark, NJ	140	0	0%	50	0	70	0	5	0	265	0
Omaha, Neb.	86	0	0%	12	0	25	0	2	0	125	0
Philadelphia	65	0	0%	20	0	35	0	2	0	122	0
Pittsburgh	75	0	0%	3	0	35	0	2	0	115	0
Salt Lake City	135	0	0%	24	0	54	0	2	0	215	0
San Francisco	160	0	0%	65	0	72	0	3	0	300	0
Seattle	80	0	0%	30	0	27	0	3	0	140	0
St. Louis	115	0	0%	5	0	30	0	2	0	152	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	145	0	0%	18	0	55	0	2	0	220	0
Washington, DC	100	0	0%	18	0	55	0	2	0	175	0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,525</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>											
London	90	0	0%	7	0	70	0	3	0	170	0
Manchester	55	0	0%	3	0	40	0	2	0	100	0
Sheffield	55	0	0%	3	0	40	0	2	0	100	0
Other Britain	10	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Montreal	65	0	0%	20	0	50	0	30	0	165	0
Toronto	75	0	0%	15	0	35	0	5	0	130	0
Vancouver	70	0	0%	15	0	30	0	5	0	120	0
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Auckland	75	0	0%	9	0	25	0	1	0	110	0
Christchurch	53	0	0%	2</							

# Moves aim to stem Soviet disintegration

Continued from front page

As one Soviet parliamentarian noted in the debate on banning the CP, "We are talking about the liquidation, not of a party, because the Communist Party has long since ceased to be a party, but about a super-state structure, parallel to the structures of power which it illegally usurped."

The CP's place at every level of Soviet society was symbolized by a description in the London *Guardian* of the town hall in one small town near Moscow: "... a five-storey pale brick building shared by the town council, the election commission, the education offices, the KGB and, until last Sunday, the Communist Party."

Gorbachev and Yeltsin though, who both back the measures against the CP, are acting against what they consider a political party. Neither intend the move as something benefiting working people or a needed step in expanding democratic rights.

Instead, they are registering the fact that the CP has ceased to be a useful tool of the caste's rule over working people. Any moves against current or former members of the CP by the central government in Moscow or the various regimes in the republics that restrict the right to form political parties should be protested by working people.

## Seeking temporary stability

As with the measures enacted around the KGB and CP, Gorbachev and Yeltsin's proposals for a new basis of union between the republics are a key part of their attempt to achieve some temporary stability for the regime.

Following the coup, more regimes in the republics added their names to the list of those which had previously announced their "independence" from the Soviet Union. So far 11 have done so — the three Baltic states, Moldavia, Georgia, Armenia, Kirghizia, the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

These independence declarations are largely about the local bureaucratic rulers' aims to secure for themselves a greater share of access to the social surplus — the trough at which they feed — produced by working people. This fact was underlined by Yeltsin's blatantly chauvinistic declarations in his enthusiasm following the coup's defeat, including his assertion that if republics with significant Russian populations left the union, boundaries would have to be redrawn. The implication was that Russia would thereby be enlarged.

Yeltsin's threats prompted noisy reactions from the neighboring regimes in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The Russian republic hastily sent a delegation to the two regions to patch things up with new accords, and Yeltsin himself made a quick visit to the Baltic states.

While the bureaucratic rulers in the republics and in Moscow maneuver to maximize their ability to make demands on whatever new union emerges, they also deeply fear the continuing effects of the economic and social crisis in the USSR and the gaining of confidence by the toilers through their defeat of the coup.

This explains why the proposal to set up a new structure was so readily accepted by

the Soviet Congress, which — chaired jointly by Gorbachev and Yeltsin — voted 1,350 to 107, with 135 abstentions, to consider the measure.

The Gorbachev-Yeltsin plan replaces the existing Soviet government, pending negotiation of a new union treaty. The central authority until then is to be a State Council consisting of the heads of 10 republics, plus Gorbachev himself. Regimes in five of the Soviet Union's previous member republics — the three Baltic states plus Moldavia and Georgia — remain outside the scheme. But all 15 republics remain as members of a proposed economic council.

The Soviet parliament is to be replaced by a legislative council consisting of 20 deputies from each of the 10 republics.

## 'Independence' declarations

In varying degrees, the "independence" declarations have been met with popular enthusiasm throughout the republics, which have suffered many forms of discrimination from the Russian-dominated center.

The Baltic republics were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union during World War II following the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact. In Moldavia the Russian-style Cyrillic alphabet was imposed on a people speaking a Latin-based language. The Moldavian parliament later restored the Latin alphabet. Proindependence protests in many republics have been met with brutal repression.

The Stalinist policy of attempting to forcibly retain entire peoples within the Soviet Union against their will stands in contrast to the proclamations of the Russian revolution, which guaranteed the right to self-determination of all the peoples who had been enslaved as part of the Russian empire under the tsars. The new union they forged was to be entirely voluntary.

Before his death in 1924 Lenin's final political struggle with Stalin centered on his opposition to Stalin's bullying treatment of representatives of the Georgian republic. Stalin's policy of forced "union" upon the non-Russian components of the Soviet Union went hand in hand with the terrorist despotism he imposed on all working people.

Despite their concessions to or even advocacy of the "independence" demands coming from the republics, the ruling stratum in the Soviet Union is not moving in the direction of reinstating the right to self-determination as proclaimed by the Russian revolution. Gorbachev's entire history, like that of his predecessors going back to Stalin, has been one of working in the opposite direction. It was under Gorbachev that forces were sent into the Baltic states and Azerbaijan to quell proindependence actions.

In his speech to the Supreme Soviet on August 27, Gorbachev urged, "There has to be a unified union, a unified armed forces, and a common economic territory which has been formed, and which is in the process of collapsing. And if that happens, it will be a catastrophe."

## Washington's stance

Washington and other imperialist powers share the Soviet rulers' fear of "instability" arising out of the recent events. They fasten

particular hopes on Gorbachev's ability to lead the way forward. While giving full diplomatic recognition to the three Baltic states September 2, Bush has not done the same for any other republic.

"Yeltsin is basically power-hungry and has done more to break up the union by scaring the republics with the specter of Russian rule," an unnamed White House official told the *New York Times*. "We have very serious questions about Yeltsin. It's obvious that the president, at least for now, would much rather do business with Gorbachev," said another Bush aide.

The *New York Times* itself devoted three pages to reprinting Gorbachev's August 27 speech and summary remarks. In an editorial, the paper described him as "a tower of strength in the struggle to avert bloodshed, witch hunts and an economic tailspin . . . Whatever the shape of the new union that emerges . . . his role has been heroic."

Although he emerged from the coup events in the shadow of Yeltsin, Gorbachev moved dramatically to regain the initiative, resigning from his post as general secretary of the CP, proposing the dissolution of its central committee, pushing ahead with the KGB purge, and spearheading the proposal for a new federation.

He accepted a share of the blame for the coup and pledged that fresh elections to all posts, including his own, would be held as soon as a new union treaty was signed. His defense minister announced a purge of 80 percent of the military officer corps.

Led by Gorbachev, the Soviet Union's bureaucratic rulers are prepared to go to great lengths, including abandoning whole sections of the privileged caste as they are doing today, in order to continue their privileged position and organize against their enemy: the toilers of the Soviet Union.

But no wings of the caste that dominates the political life of the country have a way to reverse the economic and social crisis, which gets deeper every day. Working people are less and less willing to sacrifice for a corrupt system whose rulers seek only their own wealth and comfort at the expense of society as a whole.

"They got richer and richer, and we sank lower and lower. They should work," commented a 64-year-old Moscow worker on the situation of CP members faced with the party's banning.

Attempts to extend use of capitalist market methods into the nationalized economy have only succeeded in compounding the problem. The latest indicators on the plunging Soviet economy included the prediction that oil production in 1991 will fall by 12 percent from 1990, to its lowest level in 16 years.

Only 25 million tons of grain, of the 85 million tons ordered, had been delivered to the state, the newly established Committee for the Management of the National Economy was told. Collective farms have been withholding grain in anticipation of higher prices. The committee also heard that coal supplies were at 80 percent of the norm as winter approached.

Despite their willingness to take increasingly radical moves in order to hold their system together, none of the bureaucratic forces now debating the way forward in the Soviet Union, from Gorbachev to Yeltsin to the heads of the regimes in the republics, offer a program that advances the interests of the working class.

It remains for Soviet working people to absorb their own experiences and those of fighters around the world, forge new organizations aimed at advancing their own interests, and overthrow bureaucratic rule in order to advance towards socialism.

## Fund makes involvement in fights like Wichita possible

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

"We want to be in the fight and will show in action that we intend to be in the forefront of big battles ahead leading to the conquest of power by the working class," pledged James Warren, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, to participants at an SWP and Young Socialist Alliance-sponsored open house during Solidarity Day activities in Washington, D.C., Labor Day weekend.

Warren's comments point to the alert and ready stance of members and supporters of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance who have jumped into battles like that in Wichita, where rightist forces have mobilized against democratic rights.

The Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund of \$150,000, which began August 15 and ends December 15, makes this work possible. The fund helps finance reaching out to working people and youth throughout the country with the *Militant*, the Spanish and French publications *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'internationaliste*, and the Marxist magazine, *New International*.

This week's *Militant* has reports from the Washington, D.C., march and from Wichita. In both cities, as is true across the country, fighting workers, students and other youth, and others want to read the socialist press and get hold of Pathfinder books. These are invaluable weapons in the fight against the impact of the world capitalist economic crisis, racist attacks and police brutality, assaults on the unions, and imperialist war. They provide the lessons of workers' struggles around the world and explain why labor must chart an independent political course today.

This week we are printing the first scoreboard indicating goals set by fund supporters in a number of cities.

As shown by the scoreboard, currently the goals adopted total \$102,470. Fund supporters face two challenges in getting the fund on schedule. First is for every city to adopt a goal in order to close the \$47,530 gap between the amount pledged and the overall goal. Supporters in each city should organize to take a goal this week so our next scoreboard can show pledges adding up to over \$150,000. Secondly we encourage those who have already made a pledge to begin paying it off. Only by beginning to collect the funds now can we hope to meet

our goals in full and on time.

*Militant* readers are encouraged to send in contributions. Your participation in the fund helps boost the work of building the revolutionary working-class party.

I pledge:  \$1,000  \$500  
 \$250  \$100  
\$ Other to the Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund.

Send checks or money orders to Socialist Workers 1991 Party Building Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

### Socialist Workers 1991 Party Building Fund

City	Goal
Atlanta	5,500
Baltimore	3,000
Birmingham	5,500
Boston	4,100
*Chicago	
Cleveland	3,000
Des Moines	3,525
Detroit	8,500
Greensboro	2,100
Houston	4,800
*Los Angeles	
*Miami	
*Morgantown	
Newark	9,700
New York	16,300
Omaha	3,000
Philadelphia	5,000
Pittsburgh	5,500
Salt Lake City	6,500
San Francisco	10,000
Seattle	5,000
*St. Louis	
*Twin Cities	
*Washington, D.C.	
Other U.S.	4,815
International	2,130
Total	107,970

\*Goal not yet decided

## The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism

Jack Barnes

National Secretary  
of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party

Auckland, New Zealand  
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# Major media uses Stalinism's crimes to slander gains of 1917 Russian revolution

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Articles in the big-business media have described the resistance by working people in the Soviet Union that led to the victory of toppling the August 19 coup, as a "second Russian revolution." These articles claim that the totalitarian methods of the Stalinist regimes and the Communist Party began in October 1917 during the Russian revolution led by the Bolshevik Party under V. I. Lenin.

An accurate historical account of the popular uprising of the toiling masses in Russia in October 1917 and of the character of the Bolshevik Party easily refutes this line of argumentation. The October Revolution was among the most deep-going in history and opened up the epoch of the worldwide struggle of the working class and its allies for socialism.

## Russia under the tsar

In 1917 Europe was in the third year of World War I, the first interimperialist war. Millions had already been slaughtered, and capitalist governments kept calling for new military offensives.

Russia had entered the First World War as an imperialist power, but its class structure was marked by semifeastal backwardness. A privileged aristocracy monopolized agricultural land.

Around 80 percent of the country's population was engaged in agriculture. One hundred million peasants scraped out a meager living on about 380 million acres of land with average allotments of less than 19 acres per family. Thirty thousand rich landowners, whose average holdings were over 5,400 acres, owned 190 million acres, that is, as much as 50 million peasants!

The newly emerging industrial working class, who had come mainly from the countryside, numbered only four million. But they had exceptional social weight due to the relatively large size of factories for that time, their concentration in the large cities, and their strategic position in the national economy.

Tsarist Russia was known throughout the world as "the prison house of nations." Only 43 percent of the population was of the Great Russian nationality. The remaining 57 percent consisted of oppressed peoples — from Ukrainians and Poles to Azerbaijanis, Tatars, and Turks — forcibly incorporated into the Russian empire and subjected to economic, social, and cultural discrimination.

State power, which was used in a brutal fashion to repress all manifestations of mass struggle, remained in the hands of the landed nobility, which ruled through the medium of the tsar. The liberal bourgeoisie, although opposed to that absolutist form of rule because it held back the fullest development of capitalism, could not act to overturn tsarism and its feudal and semi-feudal relations. It feared that any weakening of the repressive apparatus, or struggle against the old social order, would draw millions of toilers into a battle that would go beyond the bounds of even a limited bourgeois-democratic revolution.

Such was the situation when Russia declared war on Germany in 1914. By the end of 1916 around five million conscripts in the Russian army had been killed, wounded, or captured; and desertions from the army were growing rapidly as it suffered one defeat after another.

On the home front prices were rising at an increasing rate, accompanied by a growing shortage of consumer goods such as bread and fuel.

Early in 1917 popular indignation over these injustices broke through to the surface. Factory meetings of workers, protest demonstrations, and strikes, took place with increasing frequency. Fraternization spread between workers and discontented soldiers in the army that the regime depended on as a repressive force.

## Uprising sweeps tsar from power

The developing struggle assumed an overtly revolutionary character. This stage opened with a strike of women textile workers in Petrograd, now Leningrad, the capital of Russia. Other walkouts and protests spread across the city, leading to an armed insurrection that toppled the tsar Feb. 27, 1917. Popular support for the rebellion was mani-



Armed soldiers from Kronstadt mobilizing against attempt by General Kornilov, a monarchist, to drown revolutionary struggle in blood in September 1917.

fested in cities across Russia and among peasants and troops on the front.

During the insurrection, the workers' and peasants' councils, called soviets, that had first arisen during the 1905 revolution, re-emerged. They began in the largest factories, with workers of all occupations quickly following suit. From there the creation of soviets spread among troops and peasants.

Direct, comprehensive representation was provided on these bodies, through delegates freely elected by all toilers. The key body of elected representatives from various soviets, the General Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, was organized in Petrograd.

As the insurrection reached its climax the bourgeois Cadet Party (Constitutional Democrats) rushed to form a new, provisional government. The new cabinet, mostly comprised of capitalists and landowners, included Alexander Kerensky, a prominent figure in the Petrograd soviet, who belonged to the Social Revolutionaries, a populist party rooted in the peasantry.

The Provisional Government represented the interests of the capitalists, landowners, and foreign imperialists. It continued to prosecute the imperialist war and kept the tsar's generals in command of the armed forces. Kerensky's government ignored the demands of workers, peasants, and the oppressed nationalities.

The soviets represented a decisive majority of the population and had armed strength at their command. But the parties that controlled them at the moment, the Social Revolutionaries and the Mensheviks, voluntarily handed power to the Provisional Government. Both parties insisted that the democratic revolution against the tsar could be led by the liberal capitalists and that the working class should subordinate its own class interests and line of march to this wing of the capitalist class.

These compromisers in the leadership of the soviets supported Russia's involvement in the war, opposed peasant seizures of landed estates; failed to press the workers' demand for an eight-hour day; and double-talked about the right of oppressed nationalities to self-determination.

## Bolsheviks and October revolution

The Bolshevik Party was a working-class party both in composition and in program. Bolshevik workers helped to lead the insurrection that overthrew the tsar, but their views were supported by a minority within the soviets in early 1917.

Led by V.I. Lenin, the Bolsheviks explained that while the immediate object of the revolution in Russia was a bourgeois-democratic one, namely the overthrow of the monarchy and the destruction of the survivals of medievalism, the revolution would be led by the working class in alliance with the peasants. Lenin also explained that in fighting for these democratic tasks the working

class and its allies would go beyond these tasks to make a socialist revolution.

In the spring of 1917 the Bolsheviks launched a propaganda offensive around the slogan "All power to the soviets." They advocated an immediate end to Russia's involvement in the imperialist war; confiscation of landed estates and a sweeping agrarian reform through peasant soviets; an eight-hour day and workers' control in industry; the nationalization of banks and industrial syndicates; and self-determination for all oppressed nations including the right to secession.

Through their uncompromising stand and leadership in the workers' and peasants' struggles in the ensuing months, the Bolsheviks were able to win the allegiance of tens of millions of toilers. The membership of the Bolshevik Party grew from 80,000 to 240,000 between April and July, 1917.

Workers' respect for the revolutionary party mushroomed as its cadres led in the defense of Petrograd, which was threatened with an armed takeover by the forces of General Kornilov, a monarchist who remained the commander of the army. This was soon translated into a Bolshevik majority in the executive committee of the Petrograd soviet, which voted for the replacement of the Kerensky regime with a soviet government.

An armed insurrection by masses of workers and soldiers swept aside the small military units at the government's disposal and Kerensky took flight. The power was assumed by the All-Russia Congress of Soviets then in session in Petrograd.

## Revolutionary gains

The workers' and peasants' government that came to power ended Russia's participation in the imperialist war.

It declared the first day of the revolution that the holdings of the big landowners would be distributed to the peasants through soviets of poor peasants. To encourage increased agricultural production the soviet government provided aid in the form of implements, fertilizer, and other necessities.

This stance cemented an alliance between working people in the cities and countryside without which the revolution could not survive.

The Bolshevik-led government extended freedom of choice to all nationalities. They could either remain part of the Soviet Union, or peacefully secede if they so desired. In most cases they joined the federation of soviets.

The revolutionary regime also carried out a systematic policy designed to preserve languages and cultures discriminated against under the tsar. For example, Jews had faced fierce discrimination, but under the soviet government, Jewish schools and theatrical companies and Yiddish newspapers were encouraged.

These measures were considered a precondition by the communists for advancing to-

ward a communist society.

Actions were taken to radically advance the status of women. Laws passed by the soviet government guaranteed women the right to abortion and contraception. Marriage became a simple registration process and divorce could now be gotten on request of either partner.

Policy decisions were made and carried out by the soviets on the basis of full internal democracy. All political tendencies loyal to the revolution had complete freedom to advance their views.

In the first days of the revolution the soviet government issued decrees defending workers' rights. Lockouts by employers were forbidden. Any changes in the operation of an enterprise had to be approved by the workers. Elected representatives of workers had access to the company's books.

Other measures guaranteed the eight-hour day and health and unemployment insurance. Child labor was abolished. Acting with the consent of working people the Bolshevik Party advocated transforming the whole state system along socialist lines and abolishing capitalism as a long-term perspective.

The communists sought to aid workers' struggles in other countries and extend the revolution. This was seen as a precondition to defending and advancing the Russian revolution.

In response to soviet government policies a civil war erupted, pitting capitalists and former tsarist forces against workers and peasants. Invading armies from a number of imperialist countries backed the capitalist counterrevolution.

In response, the workers' and peasants' government utilized its power to deepen the revolutionary struggle resulting in the expropriation of the capitalist class and nationalization of industry and wholesale trade by the end of 1918. This laid the basis for the establishment of a planned economy and state monopoly of foreign trade.

## Rise of bureaucracy

In the ensuing years, the failure of revolutionary struggles in Europe, growing international isolation of the Soviet state, and the toll of the civil war and shortages led to the wearing down of the workers and the growth of a bureaucracy, backed by a police apparatus. This bureaucratic layer led by Joseph Stalin — best described as a caste — eventually usurped political power from the workers through force and violence. This counter-revolution gutted the soviets, began reversing many of the revolution's social gains, and drove working people from political life.

It turned the Bolshevik Party, renamed the Communist Party after the revolution into a brutal instrument of repression. The party's internal democracy was done away with and tens of thousands of communist workers in the party were killed, jailed, or exiled. By the mid-1930s nearly all of those who led the party in the early years of the revolution had become victims of Stalin's terror.

The party which had led the revolution no longer existed. It had been destroyed by Stalin and his henchmen, who expropriated its name and its banner to prettify the machine for defending the bureaucratic tyranny they erected in its place.

The central conquest of the revolution though — nationalized property relations — remained.

The 1917 Russian revolution opened up the epoch of the world socialist revolution, inspiring millions of workers the world over.

Working people in the Soviet Union are now taking the initial steps back into political life after decades of Stalinist totalitarian rule. As they gain experience in new struggles, they will learn the truth about Lenin and the early years of the revolution, and they will share experiences with other fighting workers and learn from revolutionary battles against imperialism and capitalism. The class battles today in the Soviet Union will, over time, lead to developing class consciousness and an internationalist outlook on the part of tens of millions of workers. Out of these fighters and revolutionaries will come a communist party capable of leading the toilers in a political revolution that will sweep the bureaucratic caste from power. This historic event will mark the resumption of the mighty revolution begun in October 1917.

# Cuba mobilizes volunteer workers to meet challenges in food crisis

## 'We are showing that socialism is the alternative to capitalism'

BY SETH GALINSKY  
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

MELENA DEL SUR, Cuba — Two years ago, there were only 300 full-time workers on the almost 9,000 acres of the state-owned Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise farm complex here.

Just an hour's drive out of Cuba's capital, Havana, much of the enterprise's rich land lay fallow. Meanwhile fresh fruits and vegetables were in short supply in the city's markets and Cuba imported large quantities of food from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. As with other state farms across the island, this one faced an acute labor shortage.

Children of farm workers and peasants, who under capitalism would have had no choice but to work the fields from an early age, became part of the rapid expansion of the educational system following the 1959 revolution that overthrew the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship. Schooling was guaranteed as part of the sweeping changes made possible by the expropriation of imperialist-owned property and Cuban capitalists. More and more young people left the countryside

Sur, there are now an additional 1,700 workers in nine contingents, mostly volunteers from Havana.

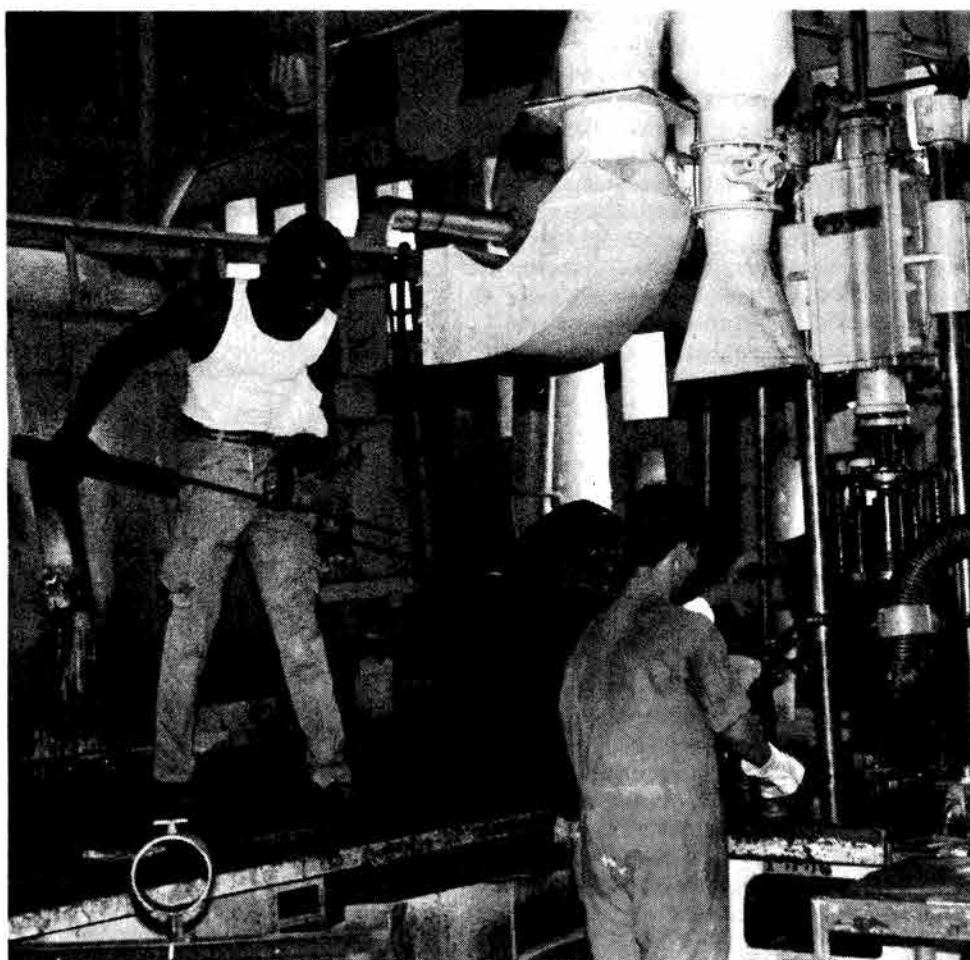
Staples of the Cuban diet are grown here: bananas, potatoes, yucca, *malanga*, garlic, carrots, beets, and broccoli.

Havana province leads the country in the number of agricultural contingents. One fifth of Cuba's 10 million people live in the capital drawing food from throughout the country. "If we can make Havana province self-sufficient," one volunteer said, "then solving the problems for the rest of the country will be easy."

### Guaranteeing food for the cities

There are six contingents at this complex, composed of volunteers who have agreed to work for at least two years. There are also three camps for volunteers who work two-week stints, and some areas reserved for the Armed Forces "Youth Work Army" — young recruits who volunteer for production contingents while doing their two-year military service.

The area worked has been increased by



Glass factory in Havana. Many industrial workers volunteer to work in contingents in the countryside to aid in the fight for food self-sufficiency. "What we want is a society where voluntary work prevails," said one farm director.

as new opportunities opened for them in urban centers in industry, technical and medical professions, teaching, and other areas.

Since the mid-1980s when a political course known as the rectification process was initiated in Cuba, there has been an accelerating effort to reverse the population flow and create the conditions that would allow Cuba to produce enough food to meet its needs.

The urgency of achieving the goal of food self-sufficiency reached crisis proportions this year as previously imported vital supplies ceased arriving from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

To rapidly increase the availability of produce in the cities, a major food program was discussed and adopted by Cuba's National Assembly last December. At the heart of the program is the mobilization of volunteer work brigades and contingents to meet the labor shortage in agriculture. This is combined with the accelerated installation of advanced irrigation systems, construction of more refrigerated storage depots to prevent spoilage of crops after harvesting, and expansion of dairy, beef, pork, poultry, and fish production.

Today, at this state farm near Melena del

more than 50 percent, although due to weather problems and inexperience there has not yet been as large an increase in production.

Two *Militant* reporters visited the farm and spent time talking with contingent volunteers who were proud of the fact that they come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some were factory workers, but "we have a little bit of everything here," one older volunteer said, while waiting in line outside the camp cafeteria. "I was a carpenter. But look over there. He's a pilot. The guy next to him was a civil engineer."

One woman explained why she signed up. "I wanted to help with the food plan," she said. "It's hard, dirty work. I was much more comfortable in my office in Havana. But this is crucial to guarantee the food we need in the cities and I like it."

Each contingent is organized on the basis of taking responsibility for increasing efficiency and improving quality in the production under its control. Contingent members being responsible for the running of the farm, and knowing that their opinions and views on how to organize the work better make a difference, is key to increasing food production and maintaining high morale.

The heads of each contingent are appointed by the Cuban Communist Party in collaboration with the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, but the discipline of the contingent is maintained by the workers themselves. The director of one group gave an example. "If a worker is always drunk, the whole group meets and discusses what to do. It is up to them to decide on his expulsion."

The contingents meet briefly every day before heading out to the fields, to discuss the previous day's work, take up questions or suggestions, and map out the plan for the rest of the day.

### Reducing separate administrative staff

Administrative work is streamlined on the contingents. Alberto Padrón, the head of one of the contingents, told us, "As the main administrator I do by myself the work that on other farms four or five people would be assigned to." Keeping down the number of administrators not involved in production, and drawing other workers directly into growing control over management and planning, is central to transforming consciousness and the organization of labor and progressively eliminating the old social divisions inherited from capitalism.

Gaspar Silva Espinoza, an agronomist and production manager of the state farm, believes the contingents are breaking new ground.

"The leaders of the work groups in the contingent are not agronomists, but they know more than us about some things," he said. "They have surpassed all expectations. They work with discipline, not imposed by someone else, but from their own decisions."

As part of encouraging city workers to volunteer for the contingents, participants receive 250 pesos a month — a very good wage in Cuba — or their previous salary, whichever is higher.

Conditions at the contingent camps are designed to make the workers' life as comfortable as possible. Sleeping quarters are cramped with six or eight bunks to a room, but each camp has a collection of books, a TV room, and a separate video room for watching movies. Meals in the dining common are better than in most factories. "We really need it," one worker said. "We work really hard, in extreme heat."

Each contingent has its own medical center with a doctor or nurse in residence. Every other weekend half the workers get a day off to visit family and friends in the city.

### High morale

The high morale of the contingent was obvious in the well-kept living quarters, the brightly painted walls, the cleanliness of the camp — which was very clean even by Cubans' high standards — and the spirit of the workers themselves.

To really be able to meet Cuba's food and agricultural needs, hundreds of thousands of people will need to move to the countryside to work in agriculture and reverse the trend of peasants and farm workers moving to the cities, where unemployment is on the rise due to factory shutdowns caused by inadequate supplies. Many factories and workplaces are already overstuffed.

At Melena del Sur, where some of the contingents started working a year and a half ago, plans for setting up a permanent town with housing, schools, child-care centers, medical services, stores, and recreational facilities are on the drawing board. Construction is expected to begin next year, contingent leaders said.

Along with the Food Plan, a special project known as the Turquino Plan, which was also launched as part of the rectification process, encourages young people to return to mountainous zones, where most of Cuba's coffee is grown, as well as many other vital agricultural products. Electricity is being extended, housing built, and conditions there generally improved.

### Severe drop in trade

Despite the substantial efforts, however, it will take several years at best to alleviate the

serious food shortages Cuba faces. Given the deepening economic and political crises in the Soviet Union, Cuba's main trading partner, the food situation in Cuba will likely get worse.

Over the last two years, trade relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, which together accounted for 85 percent of Cuba's trade, severely deteriorated.

Trade with Eastern Europe has virtually

### The role of volunteer work goes to the heart of the debate in Cuba over how to advance the revolution.

ceased. During the first six months of this year most trade with the Soviet Union ground to a halt. While the Soviet Union has been honoring many of its previous commitments, deliveries have been erratic at best. Oil has been arriving in smaller amounts than previously agreed to, and even promised supplies fall short of Cuba's needs.

Cuban President Fidel Castro announced in an April 19 speech that almost no shipments of key raw materials — such as caustic soda, lumber, paper pulp, and some metals — were received in the first part of the year.

Although ships carrying food and other materials increased in July, supplies are still way below previous levels and the needs of the Cuban people.

The drop in trade, along with the uncertainty in delivery of many items, has caused severe economic hardships for the Cuban people.

Cuba had imported 30,000 tons of powdered milk a year, 20,000 tons of butter, 170,000 tons of flour, 1.5 million tons of grains such as wheat, and 120,000 tons of fat. Even rice and beans, staples of the Cuban diet, are largely imported.

Fodder shortages have resulted in a decline in the weight of cattle and other livestock.

### Rationing is not unpopular

To ensure that what is available is equitably distributed, parallel markets, where products previously could be bought outside Cuba's rationing system at higher prices, have been closed down. Now most food items, with the exception of some fruits and vegetables, are available only through the ration book. Items from clothes to shoes to cigarettes and beer are also rationed.

The monthly allocation of many basic goods, including rice and beans, has been reduced. Toothpaste, soap, and laundry detergent are now scarce in Havana and even harder to get in the countryside. The ration is not enough for a month at a time.

Although no one is happy about the growing scarcities or the bureaucratic inefficiencies and waste that plague the distribution system, rationing itself is not unpopular in Cuba. It is seen as basically just and equitable. The allocation on the ration book is the same for government and party functionaries and for workers. Many privileges in access to food, housing, and gasoline that the bureaucratic layers previously enjoyed have been eliminated in recent years as the rectification process advanced.

As the shortages increase, however, a black market has inevitably expanded in some goods.

### Imperialist legacy

Dependency on food imports is not a recent problem in Cuba. It is part of the legacy of imperialist oppression that has never been overcome. A year before the revolution, for example, 95 percent of beans eaten in Cuba, a key part of the diet, were imported. Even food items that were grown in Cuba — like rice or tomatoes — were often sent to the United States for processing and then exported to Cuba for sale. In 1988, 88 percent of Cuba's beans were still being imported.

The Cuban government in effect nationalized the land and undertook a profound

agrarian reform in the first years of the revolution. Before the revolution more than 50 percent of productive land was in foreign hands — mostly U.S.-owned. Cuba essentially had a one-crop economy, based on sugar production, that was dependent on the vagaries of the market. Eighty-five percent of Cuba's small peasants rented their land and faced the constant threat of eviction.

The revolution guaranteed small peasants the right to work the land and land to work. At the same time the large plantations, mostly of sugar cane, were turned into state enterprises. Peasants were encouraged to voluntarily join collective farms, in part to make technological improvements more readily available. But those who wanted to work the land on their own, and there were tens of thousands, were allowed to do so.

Dependent on the United States for most of its food imports, Cuba had to rapidly find new sources when Washington began imposing its draconian trade embargo in 1960. The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe became the main source of food imports.

In the early years of the revolution, Cuba strove to diversify its agriculture and achieve self-sufficiency in food. But a shift away from these policies occurred when Cuba joined the Soviet trade bloc in 1972 and then in 1975 implemented the Economic Planning and Management System, copied in large part from the practices of the regime in the Soviet Union.

It was not just the plan for food self-sufficiency that suffered during the 1970s and early '80s. Investment in other social priorities such as housing, child care, transport, or an efficient distribution system also went to the bottom of the list of priorities of the growing layer of relatively privileged technocrats and planners. Volunteer labor, the backbone of revolutionary mobilizations in the early 1960s, was also effectively eliminated.

This new policy of economic planning relied heavily on individual material incentives, which often had little real connection to production or the skill level of the work force. Growing numbers of administrators, government officials, and professional layers received salary increases and had access to many material advantages not available to Cuban workers.

#### Fighting against demoralization

The result was increasing demoralization and depoliticization among working people in Cuba. The policies implemented reinforced the problems that were the legacy of capitalist underdevelopment: from low labor productivity to dependency on food imports in a country with rich agricultural possibilities.



Militant/Seth Galinsky

**Volunteers in agricultural contingent outside Havana. "It's hard, dirty work," said one woman. "But this is crucial to guarantee the food we need in the cities and I like it." Each contingent is organized on basis of workers themselves taking responsibility for increasing efficiency and improving quality.**

Recognizing that these political policies were undermining rather than accelerating advancement toward greater social equality, solidarity, and socialist consciousness, the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba launched the rectification process in 1986.

Rectification sought to reverse the direction of previous years. Drawing heavily on policies championed by Che Guevara in the early years of the revolution, volunteer work brigades were again organized as a revolutionary answer to the artificial labor shortages created by the technocrats and their reactionary social policies.

Minibrigades — made up of volunteer workers — were formed beginning in 1986. They built thousands of housing units (beginning to ameliorate Cuba's critical housing shortage), child-care centers, schools, and family doctor offices. In 1987, the first volunteer construction contingents were formed to take on large-scale projects like roads and dams.

But with the shortage of construction materials that developed as trade with the Soviet Union became more and more irregular, the minibrigades were curtailed in 1990 and expansion of contingents halted. All new housing construction in Havana stopped. Instead the Cuban government decided to concentrate new housing construction in the countryside as part of the plan to develop a stable agricultural work force.

While some volunteer construction work

was still done in the cities, primarily for the Pan American game sites and some tourist hotels, the main form of volunteer work in Cuba today is in agriculture. The contingents in Melena del Sur are modeled after the contingents in construction. Added to this are the more than 100,000 students who volunteered for two weeks during their summer vacation this year to help out on state farms.

#### Debate over role of contingents

The role of the contingents and volunteer work goes to the heart of the debate going on in Cuba today over how to advance the revolution.

José Antonio Machado, head of the Captain San Luis Contingent (named after a member of Che Guevara's guerrilla group in Bolivia), said during a tour of the group's camp at Melena del Sur, that the contingent approach to work "is not for the whole country. It's just for this special period."

Machado argued that problems of inefficiency, absenteeism, and low productivity are due to what he called "paternalism. Nobody is fired, nobody is left without work, no matter what they do. We have to have less

paternalism and more discipline."

"I have to disagree a little," production manager Espinoza responded. "The question we face is how to universalize the contingent experience. We need to extend what is achieved with the deepened consciousness in the contingents. That is why Che's ideas are so important."

A leader of the Communist Party of Cuba in the town of Melena del Sur accompanied us on the tour and gave his opinion. "The contingent system is important. Every factory should have the contingent work spirit. Workers must know what they are producing and why."

"That's right," Espinoza said. "What we want is a society where voluntary work prevails. That is the road to increased productivity."

Returning from the fields for his lunch break, one contingent worker gave his view of the importance of the contingents. "What we are doing is an example for Latin America and for the world," he said. "We are showing that socialism is the alternative to capitalism and that when a people decides to defend its revolution, it is capable of making any sacrifice."

## 'Free Puerto Rican independence activists,' Hartford protest says

BY TIM CRANE

HARTFORD, Connecticut — Fifty demonstrators gathered here August 30 to demand "Freedom and Justice for the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15! Drop the Charges!"

The event marked the sixth anniversary of the launching of the FBI operation that resulted in the arrests of 15 Puerto Rican independence activists.

They were brought from the island of Puerto Rico to Connecticut and forced to spend many months in pretrial detention before a public outcry forced their release. The case of the Hartford 15 has received international attention because it highlights Puerto Rico's status as a colony of the United States.

In 1989, 5 of the 15 were put on trial. Four were convicted on charges of conspiracy in connection with a 1983 robbery. These 4 received sentences ranging from 15 to 65 years, for offenses that normally carry much lighter penalties. In addition, one defendant pleaded guilty and has now finished serving the remainder of her 5-year sentence.

The case of 9 remaining defendants has been in limbo while the defense and prosecution have battled in court over the use of hundreds of hours of tape recordings obtained by the FBI through an illegal wiretapping procedure. In a blow to the defense earlier this year, District Judge T. Emmet Clarke reversed his previous ruling and has now admitted the questionable tapes into

evidence in spite of the fact that the FBI failed to follow its own procedures for recording and sealing them. A trial for 7 of the 9 defendants is expected to begin in early 1992. In September 1990, 2 defendants, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Luis Colón Osorio, went into hiding, stating that it is impossible for independence activists to receive a fair trial in U.S. courts.

During the week preceding the August 30 anniversary demonstration, Hartford television station WFSB aired portions of a videotaped interview with Ojeda from an undisclosed location in Puerto Rico. In the interview, Ojeda, a leader of the Macheteros, a proindependence organization, said that money from the robbery was used for the group's "military and organizational needs."

A grand jury has issued subpoenas against the Hartford station and Puerto Rican Channel 11, the station that originally obtained the interview, demanding that the broadcasters turn over their videotapes to the FBI. Both stations have refused to do so, citing their rights as journalists under the U.S. Constitution.

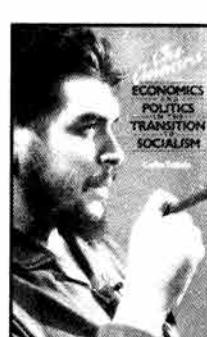
At the picket line in front of the federal court house where the trials have been held, demonstrators chanted, "Viva Puerto Rico Libre!," "Grand jury, FBI, U.S. justice is a lie," and "The human rights problem in the world today is right here in the USA."

The demonstrators then marched to Betances Park where a brief rally was held.

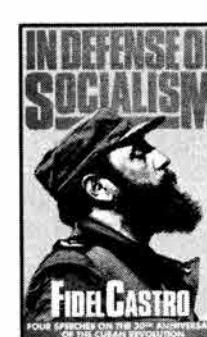
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# Solidarity Day '91 march draws 250,000

Continued from front page

George Bush of a Democratic-sponsored civil rights bill, approved by the House of Representatives June 5.

There were workers from Jacksonville, Florida, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Newport News, Virginia, to New York City and Chicago. Few traveled from the West Coast.

Nick Ramirez, a laid-off miner from Omar, West Virginia, said that many companies are laying off from mines organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) while some hiring is taking place at nonunion mines, in many cases owned by the same companies. "But there is no fight" to confront the employers, he said. Ramirez had participated in the strike by miners at Pittston in 1989-90. He pointed to that fight as an example of a victory won through struggle.

## Low-paid workers

"Low-paid workers, especially women and Blacks, are who bear the brunt of the attacks," said Ruby Walker from Wayne, Indiana, expressing the sentiment of many in the crowd.

Walker, a department store clerk and member of the Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Union, said she was particularly disgusted with recent attacks on women's rights. She pointed to the rightist assaults on abortion clinics in Wichita, Kansas. "Those thugs and the federal government have to get out of the way. Abortion is a matter of choice for us," Walker explained.

Others held signs and echoed reactionary arguments by the top labor officials that the problems facing the unions today stem primarily from lack of protectionist measures or too much "foreign aid" on the part of the U.S. government. T. Rex Pritchard, an AFSCME union official from Ohio, held a hand-made sign that read "Stop the Jap crap." Pritchard argued that "we need to raise the trade barriers higher in order to save American jobs."

## Striking workers

Others came to join the action to rally support for fights they were involved in.

"They hacked and hacked and hacked and now we have to pay \$240 a month for medical insurance," said Richard Barker, a Steelworker from Coshocton, Ohio. "Then the company wanted to stop paying retirement benefits and we said no more." Barker is among 328 USWA members who have been on strike against McWayne Corp. since June 21. He said the steel pipe plant is operating with management personnel but no scabs have been hired yet.

Sue Cordier, a garment worker from Racine, Wisconsin, on strike against the Rainfair Company, circulated an appeal for solidarity with the battle she is involved in.



Militant/Margrethe Siem  
Most placards at the event were mass produced by the unions. Above, members of the United Auto Workers.

Cordier joined the march in Washington along with 14 of the 136 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) who struck the plant June 20.

Some workers expressed frustration with the course of the union leadership. "It didn't help us having that no-strike pledge during the war," commented Lafayette Garrett, a rail worker from Greenville, Texas. Garrett was referring to the no-strike pledge by rail union officials during the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

Garrett said that when Congress declared the rail workers' mid-April strike "illegal" after one day, "Bush and the Congress shafted us. We should have stayed out another week and we would have had a chance for a better contract." Rail union officials seized on the Congressional declaration and ordered striking unionists back to work instead.

Several of the more than 30 speakers at the main rally pointed to the deteriorating conditions workers face today.

John Sweeney, president of the Service Employees International Union, told the rally that "37 million uninsured Americans and 100 million underinsured live in fear of illness, of disability, of pain."

United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka spoke out against "the injustice and the immorality of more than 26,000 Americans fired last year for exercising the right to strike."

According to the *New York Times* the real wages of production workers have declined by 6.8 percent in the last decade. For young workers entering the work force without col-

lege degrees the drop in real wages is 20 percent.

Other speakers at the rally included NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks; Patricia Ireland, executive vice president of the National Organization for Women; Cunningham Ngcukana, general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions of South Africa; Papi Kganare, general secretary of the South African Commercial, Catering & Allied Workers Union, which is affiliated to the Congress of South African Trade Unions; and Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn.

## Officials' main themes

While pointing to some of the effects of the government-employer offensive on working people, most speakers at the rally focused their remarks on three themes. Rather than pointing to a fight by labor for even the stated goals of the demonstration, the speakers promoted the continuation of the same course that has led to the deep blows suffered by the labor movement over the past decade.

The first theme was that U.S. foreign policy is aimed at helping workers in other countries at the expense of "American jobs."

"We spent money off budget to finance the war and bring peace to the Middle East," AFSCME official William Lucy claimed. "Let's spend some money to bring peace to the streets of the United States of America." Lucy did not mention that at least 150,000 Iraqi civilians and workers in uniform were slaughtered by the imperialist assault, a war aimed at dealing devastating blows to the

struggles of working people in the Mideast.

A leaflet passed out at the demonstration by UAW Region 3, titled "Fight to Keep Jobs in America," said: "More and more Americans are standing in unemployment lines. Why? Because we're losing jobs to Japan."

"We won the Persian Gulf war," the leaflet concluded. "With the same determination, we can win this war at home!"

Several of the speakers pushed the notion that Washington was aiding workers around the world, but attacking workers in the United States.

"We must rebuild America," said former Democratic Party presidential candidate Jesse Jackson. "We have plans to bail out Panama, a plan to bail out Kuwait, a plan to bail out Eastern Europe, a plan to bail out the Savings and Loans thieves, a plan to bail out Russia. . . . We need a plan to bail out America."

In presenting these views Jackson and other speakers sought to perpetuate the idea that the United States is not class divided. But Washington's foreign-policy actions are simply an extension of domestic policy. Both are aimed at suppressing the struggles of workers and others against exploitation and oppression by the billionaire ruling families and the imperialist countries.

Second, the speakers platform was used to push anticommunism, a hallmark of the AFL-CIO leadership for decades.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said in his speech: "Everywhere you look — in Eastern and Central Europe, in Asia, in South Africa, and now even in the republics of the Soviet Union — working people like you are rising to their feet, taking to the streets, and demanding their fundamental right to breathe free and to live in dignity. China next! Cuba next!"

The AFL-CIO tops' anticommunism has been used as a weapon against workers at home and abroad. The union officials have supported each of Washington's wars abroad and sought to block off the truth about and solidarity with struggles for national independence, labor rights, and socialism by working people around the world.

At home anticommunism has been used to target and intimidate trade union militants, clamp down on union democracy, and tie the labor movement to the parties of big business.

Lastly, the AFL-CIO officials projected that the main way working people can fight for health care, jobs, or stop union busting is by supporting Democratic Party politicians in the upcoming U.S. presidential and congressional elections. Passage of antiscab legislation and opposition to the U.S.-Mexico negotiations on lifting trade restrictions are key goals of the union officials within the electoral framework of the two capitalist parties.

"We've been told that George Bush can't be beat. I don't believe that," said International Union of Electronic Workers President William Bywater. If the Democrats nominate a candidate who is "against scabs, for health care, and for saving American jobs by keeping them here in this country. . . . We'd beat George Bush," he told the crowd. Bywater's theme was reiterated by many speakers.

Dewey Taylor, a Steelworker on strike against Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. in Ravenswood, West Virginia, addressed the rally. Some 1,700 workers at RAC were forced out on strike last November and have been out ever since. The company hired scabs to replace them. Taylor urged support for efforts to pass antiscab legislation backed by the AFL-CIO.

## Labor party discussion

Melvin Blackford, a member of the International Chemical Workers Union from Florida, said in an interview that he was in favor of a labor party because both the Democrats and Republicans represent big business. Blackford, along with a few other unionists, thought the formation of "Labor Party Advocates" by Anthony Mazzocchi, former secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, was a step in that direction.

Like Connie Jones, most participants these reporters talked to thought the rally was important. But the AFL-CIO officialdom's perspective did not offer a way forward. Ramirez, the laid-off miner from West Virginia, said he wasn't too pleased with Bush negotiating a trade pact with Mexico. "But solidarity is not just for workers here, it's for all of us from Mexico to South Africa," he added.

## Wichita fight, challenges for labor are topic at socialist campaign event

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Some 200 unionists, political activists, and youth turned out at an open house here August 31 sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers 1991 Campaign. The event followed the AFL-CIO-sponsored Solidarity Day rally.

Many came to hear about the continuing fight in Wichita, Kansas, where rightists have mobilized against abortion rights. "What we see in Wichita today is the face of incipient American fascism," said Kate Kaku, a leader of the YSA and SWP, in opening remarks at the event. She explained that the rightist assault is fundamentally antilabor, antiwoman, and anti-working-class.

Kaku helped lead a team of *Militant* supporters to Wichita to participate in political discussions spurred on by events there. The team received a warm response to the socialist press and several young people, looking to fight back, joined the YSA.

James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago this past spring, attended the August 24 action in Wichita where 5,000 turned out to support abortion rights and protest the rightist assault. "If ever there was a city, a situation, where the labor movement should mobilize, this is it," Warren said. "The rightists' actions must

be stood up to, and fought against."

Warren said it would have been a powerful statement if the Solidarity Day action had been held in Wichita rather than Washington, D.C.

Instead, the union-organized event was geared to bolster the labor officialdom's course of class collaboration with the bosses and reliance on the parties of big business, Warren noted.

Warren said that many working people want to resist the antiworker offensive carried out by the employing class. "The potential is there, but it's not being tapped," he added.

Referring to issues presented in speeches to the rally by labor officials urging national health care, passage of antiscab legislation, and workplace democracy, Warren explained that because the action was a giant exercise in bourgeois electoralism, and not part of a fight, there will be no national health care, and "there won't be less scabs used during strikes; there will be more because of the officialdom's perspective."

In his talk, Warren also highlighted recent events in the Soviet Union. "Overturning the coup places workers and farmers there in a stronger position against those who will try in the future to reverse the gains so far won by working people.

"We are inspired to see workers and farm-

ers fight the coup in the Soviet Union and know that out of the crisis there and in Eastern Europe has come a new beginning and rebirth of the fight for socialism," Warren said.

Dave Webber, a member of the YSA in Austin, Texas, explained he first became interested in the revolutionary youth organization last November, "but was not yet mad enough about the political situation." He said he became increasingly frustrated and angry through the imperialist war against the Iraqi people. "I had questions and the YSA had answers," he said.

Webber said the YSA and SWP make an important contribution in explaining the true agenda of the rightists in their assault in Wichita and added that building the YSA is an important part of the fight.

Warren concluded that a deepening class conflict lay ahead. These battles will draw millions into struggle, politics, and the fight for political power. "The fights are guaranteed, but not the victory," he said. That takes political organization and a revolutionary working-class party which those in the SWP are fighting to build.

"We want to be in the fight and will be in the forefront of coming fights for political power," Warren said, urging others interested in this perspective to join the YSA and SWP.

# Mark Curtis writes about political work at Anamosa prison

BY FRANK HARMON

In several recent letters from prison in Anamosa, Iowa, Mark Curtis described his political work, living conditions, and prospects for securing a job. Curtis is a union and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa, serving 25 years in state prison on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. He was abruptly transferred to the State Men's Reformatory at Anamosa August 6 from the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility.

Mount Pleasant houses the Iowa Department of Correction's Sexual Offender Treatment Program (SOTP). SOTP is a voluntary program which requires participants to admit they are guilty and drop any legal appeal of their conviction. When Curtis arrived at Mount Pleasant, authorities insisted he enter the SOTP program. He informed them that he could not do so, as he was the victim of a police frame-up.

On July 31 Curtis was informed that since he had "refused" to enter the program, he was to be sent back to the Iowa Men's Reformatory at Anamosa.

Curtis will have his next parole hearing in November.

Curtis' supporters are responding to these latest attacks by stepping up their campaign to win his release. They are organizing a drive to gather letters from trade unionists and political activists urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to free Curtis.

Curtis describes his arrival at Anamosa:

"When the van drove inside through the wagon gate the usual crowd of curious formed to see who had been brought in. Several familiar faces were in the crowd and broke

out in smiles when they recognized me."

"I am in Living Unit A (LUA) cell house, where orientation takes place," Curtis writes. Since he has been gone from Anamosa prison for between one and two years, he had the option of going through orientation or "testing out" by taking a test on the rules before being transferred to a higher level.

"Jobs are harder to come by now with overcrowding," he noted, "but as someone with a long sentence and a good work record I hope to get something on 'shop row' before too long."

Because of overcrowding, the single cells in LUA have been made into double-bunked cells since 1988. The cell in LUA "is sparse," Curtis wrote August 6, "as I don't have any of my property, only some paper, pencil, rule book, toothbrush and paste."

"One of the biggest drawbacks to this place — no phone — will be missed after a year of lots of use. I'll have to become a better correspondent," Curtis added.

On August 7 Curtis passed his test and was moved into a double cell, and placed on "on call" status until he got a job.

"On call" status means "I am locked up all day and night in the cell except for meals and from 11:15 a.m.—4:00 p.m. During the afternoon time I eat lunch and supper, and look for a job, shower, and anything else I can do. This will last 30 days, then I'll be eligible for level 3," he explained.

"Even though I only get out five hours a day during the week, weekends are even more bleak. I am only out of the cell for two 45 minute meals, breakfast and lunch, and one hour and 20 minutes for supper and



Militant/Stu Singer

Framed-up unionist Mark Curtis at Anamosa prison in 1989

shower," the jailed unionist writes. Another prisoner noted the restrictions mean they are "a one-night lock-up every night of the week, and a weekend lock-up every weekend."

"I'm in my cell now, waiting for 11:15 cell line so I can leave, get my property and clothes and eat lunch," writes Curtis. "I took my breakfast in my cell this morning and had the pleasure of having breakfast in bed — you take your enjoyment where you can get it!"

Retrieving his property the next day from prison officials "was a big hassle and meant a lot of arguing with the officer there, Mr. Zimmerman. He forced me to send out all clippings and xeroxed material, among other

things," Curtis writes. While there, "Zimmerman told me, 'I don't know why you're still doing all this shit. You could have been out by now, you know.' I asked him, 'What do you mean, fighting my frame-up or getting transferred from Mount Pleasant?' He said, 'No, you know what I mean, all this,' and he gestured toward the pile of clippings and xeroxed material, most of it clippings on the prison system, xeroxed political material.

"All my Education for Socialists bulletins are being held for review and so are my text books in Spanish."

During his previous stint at Anamosa, Curtis had been active in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization. He explains that he was looking forward to seeing again the former vice president, who became the president of the organization. However, according to the former vice president's friends, he was transferred to the prison at Fort Madison that very day.

"My old buddy Sam, the truck driver, and I walked the yard a few laps, and Victor, the *mexicano* who worked with [Curtis supporter] Bob Miller at the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines, is still here. He introduced me to his friends as a former coworker who was jailed for helping the Mexicans at work," Curtis writes. "I really got a warm welcome from the guys although most were surprised to see me back. I got treated to pop and ice cream and lots of help when I moved my boxes of stuff to the cell house. Victor told me he had written to the Defense Committee (in Spanish) but his letter was returned to him by the prison."

Curtis says he continues to run into former coworkers: "When I started at Swift I worked trimming livers, and right behind me was a guy from Thailand who split weasands (to get out the esophagus meat). He could hardly speak a word of English but liked to joke with everyone. His favorite trick was to take the inside lining of the weasand, which was discard and sticky, and carefully pile it on top of your hardhat from behind without you noticing until your hat felt awfully heavy for some reason and people seemed to be smiling at you a lot more than necessary. It was either laugh or cry on that job — and he was the mischievous elf who made us all laugh."

"This guy's been here for about six months now and was my companion all afternoon although we are unable to talk much. Victor remembers him too."

"I will be meeting with my classification committee on Monday. 'On call' lasts about 30 days."

Contributions and letters urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to free Curtis can be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

## Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on this page for subscription rates.

## Army doctor given 30 months in jail after being absent from duty during Iraq war

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

FT. LEONARD WOOD, Missouri — Captain Yolanda Huet-Vaughn was convicted of desertion in a week-long trial here that ended August 9. She was sentenced to a 30-month prison term at Leavenworth, Kansas, for being absent from duty Dec. 30, 1990 to Feb. 2, 1991, during the U.S. war against Iraq.

Capt. Huet-Vaughn pled not guilty to the desertion charge. This charge is defined by the military as "being absent without leave with specific intent to avoid hazardous and/or important military service."

Capt. Huet-Vaughn's defense rested on proving that her absence was not with the

intent to avoid such military service but to try to prevent a war which violated international law and the military's own prohibition of unwarranted attacks on civilians.

The defense planned to present evidence and call witnesses to corroborate that Capt. Huet-Vaughn went to Washington, D.C., and New York to meet with congressional and United Nations officials about the war during her absence. Her defense would have also included testimony about the effects of the war on civilians in Iraq and Kuwait.

She was prevented, however, from presenting her defense. Army judge Col. Richard Russell explained at the opening of the trial that "all the government has to do is

prove that the duty is hazardous and/or important and that she intentionally did not go. Her reasons are irrelevant." He ruled against most of the 51 defense witnesses, allowing only a dozen who are military personnel and several character witnesses to testify.

Amid defense objections to these rulings the judge stated that Huet-Vaughn would be free to express her beliefs and explain her intentions. However, on the morning she was scheduled to testify the judge ruled that "consciously quitting her unit because of moral or religious convictions is not a defense nor is the intention to avoid duty because of international law a defense. All objections to such questions will be sustained." The military prosecutor repeatedly interrupted Capt. Huet-Vaughn's testimony whenever she attempted to explain her intentions and opposition to the war against Iraq.

The military's version of a jury, called a "panel," was selected from a pool made available by the military commander of Ft. Leonard Wood. All were majors and colonels, male, and white except for one Black. Capt. Huet-Vaughn is Hispanic. Defense objections to this panel were denied. The group took only an hour before returning the guilty verdict.

"They denied my democratic right to present my defense. What we have here is a kangaroo court," Huet-Vaughn stated.

The military's charge against Huet-Vaughn received wide publicity here. She is a long-time political and community activist and a well-respected physician, both in Kansas City and while practicing at the clinic on the base. A rally in her defense in Kansas City drew fifty people the day before the trial opened and supporters were present throughout the trial.

Although this verdict will be appealed, there is no appellate bail in the military. Huet-Vaughn was immediately taken to Leavenworth, Kansas. She was subsequently denied her request to practice medicine in the prison clinic.

Jan Behrand contributed information for this article.

## New York socialists run unionist, YSA leader in city council race

BY RICHARD SORRENTINO

NEW YORK — The New York Socialist Campaign held a press conference August 20 to announce the candidacy of Angel Lariscy for city council in the 3rd district.

Lariscy, along with the Socialist candidate for city council in the 2nd district, Meryl Lynn Farber, filed petition signatures in order to obtain ballot status for the upcoming November election. Supporters of the socialist campaign collected over 2,800 signatures for Farber and 746 signatures for Lariscy, well over the 540 signature requirement.

Twenty-six-year-old Lariscy is a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance and a garment worker who belongs to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 63-32.

In a joint press statement with Farber, Lariscy explained that the next phase was to "take the socialist campaign to the street corners, campuses, factories, and plant gates to talk with working people and youth about the central political question we face: the capitalist economic crisis bearing down on workers, working farmers, and young people the world over.

"As the crisis of capitalism accelerates,"

Lariscy said, "the wages and working conditions of hundreds of thousands of working people in New York have come under attack. The ranks of the homeless grow, unemployment rises, education is cut back, and the health care system deteriorates. The rulers' drive to boost their sagging profit rate produces devastation for millions and results in stepped-up probes and attacks on our democratic rights."

A union activist for eight years, Lariscy also played a leading role in the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. This organization coordinated the international antiwar demonstrations February 21 this year.

Lariscy urged the labor movement and young people to support the August 24 demonstration in Wichita in defense of abortion rights and against the ultrarightist offensive against democratic rights there.

Socialist campaign supporters from New York traveled to Wichita, where they joined other working people, students, and supporters of democratic rights in the "Speak Out for Choice" demonstration which drew over 5,000 people.

# Rallies support union organizing drive in North Carolina

BY TONY PRINCE

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina — "I want to say to all the union workers in Carolina and Georgia, roll up your right sleeve. On August 20th and 21st we're going to pump 7,000 gallons of new blood in this union," said Robert Still, a worker at Fieldcrest Cannon's Plant No. 4 here. He was speaking at a rally of about 400 Fieldcrest Cannon workers at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) hall in Kannapolis on August 11.

Seven thousand Fieldcrest Cannon workers in Kannapolis, Concord, and Salisbury, North Carolina, voted on joining ACTWU Aug. 20-21.

One worker after another got up at the rally and explained why they were supporting the union. Some, like Cynthia Graham from Plant No. 7, told of being excluded from the company's anti-union meetings with employees because the bosses claim she is a "misguided employee" who supports the union. Others explained that workers were making more money 11 years ago than they are today.

Members of other unions in the area and from Charlotte came to the rally. Buck Wiggins, from the Bakery, Tobacco and Confectionery Workers at Phillip Morris in Concord told the crowd, "I see a whole lot of Norma Rae's here, and I salute you, I take my hat off to you."

In addition, workers from the Teamsters Union, the United Rubber Workers, Charlotte bus drivers organized by the United Transportation Union, International Association of Machinists members from US Air in Charlotte, the United Auto Workers, the United Steelworkers, and the United Food and Commercial Workers attended the rally.

In discussions at the meeting, several Fieldcrest Cannon workers described the issues facing them. A worker at Plant No. 1 said he had been working 36 days straight since the July 4 weekend and would not get a day off until Labor Day. After that, he would probably not get another day off until Thanksgiving. Nonunion workers, unlike unionized Fieldcrest Cannon workers in Fieldale, Virginia, Eden, North Carolina, and Columbus, Georgia, do not get paid double-time for Sundays.

*Tony Prince is a member of ACTWU Local 385T at Fieldcrest Cannon in Eden, North Carolina.*

BY NAOMI CRAINE

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina — Chanting, "Union, union," about 100 members and supporters of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) rallied outside Fieldcrest Cannon's Plant No. 1 in Kannapolis August 14 as part of a union organizing drive here.

Most were union members from ACTWU organized Fieldcrest Cannon plants in Eden, North Carolina, and Fieldale, Virginia, who rode down on buses for a day of union-building activities. At the rally, activists in the organizing drive were presented with a letter of support signed by 3,000 workers from the various union mills.

Activists then fanned out to the plant gates to leaflet and talk to workers about why they should vote for the union. Responses to the leafleting showed the impact of company antiunion and divide-and-rule tactics. Many said they would definitely vote for the union. One young man explained, "It can't get any worse by having the union." Another said, "I'm 100 percent union." Some workers were against the union. A few wore "No Union" buttons distributed by the company. One woman coming out of the plant said, "I don't want to see you out here."

The official vote revealed workers evenly divided on whether or not to be represented by the union: 3,233 votes were cast against union recognition, 3,034 in favor. Some 538 votes have not yet been counted because of challenges from the union or the company.

ACTWU is calling for another election, charging that threats and intimidation by the company resulted in unfair labor practices.

*Naomi Craine is a member of ACTWU Local 385T at Fieldcrest Cannon in Eden, North Carolina.*

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Defending Abortion Rights: Report from Wichita.** Speaker to be announced. Sun., Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**The Soviet Union Today: The Roots of the Present Crisis. The Meaning of Recent Events for Working People.** Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, Socialist Workers Party, editor *Women and the Cuban Revolution*. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

#### San Francisco

**The Cuban Revolution and the Road to Socialism.** Speaker: Brian Gibbs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Sheriff of San Francisco, Young Socialist Alliance, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Stop Right-Wing Vigilante Attacks in Wichita: Defend Democratic Rights.** A panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**The Rightist Siege of Wichita and the Fight to Defend Abortion Rights.** Speaker: Salm Kolis, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union, attended August 24 Wichita countermobilization in support of women's right to choose abortion. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. Grand Opening: New Atlanta Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., Sept. 7, 6 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**The Coup in the Soviet Union: The Crisis of Stalinism and the Revolutionary Road Confronting Workers.** Speaker: representative Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**Battle in Wichita: Women's Rights and the Working Class vs. the Right Wing and the Government.** Panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

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**IOWA: Des Moines:** 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

**KENTUCKY: Louisville:** P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

**MARYLAND: Baltimore:** 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Wichita, Kansas: Battleground for Women's Right to Choose. Eyewitness Report.** Speakers: Sarah Ullman, Socialist Workers Party; Neil Callender, chairperson Boston Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### NEBRASKA

#### Omaha

**Soviet Workers Defeat Coup Attempt. What's Behind the Economic and Political Crisis.** Speaker: L. Paltrineri, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Right-Wing Assault in Wichita: The Stakes for Working People.** Eyewitness report from Wichita. Speakers: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Assembly, 28th A.D.; Karen Koppenrund, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Assembly, 28th A.D.; James Brash, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**Cuito Cuanavale. Cuba's Role in Defeating the South African Invasion of Angola.** Video. Sat., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Protest Right-Wing Assault in Wichita. Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

## Anti-semitic remarks seized on by rights foes

Continued from Page 2

Jeffries controversy.

*Sun* reporter Charshee McIntyre explained that her article "offers a brief overview of the connections between the slave system and slave trade of the Old World and that of the so-called New World by highlighting the role of Jews in this oppressive commercial enterprise and social system."

No Black rights group or labor organization has brought a working-class perspective to the debate, defending the fight against racism and explaining how anti-Semitism diverts that struggle and obscures the source of the oppression Blacks face.

The furor being whipped up has aided New York's rulers in deflecting attention away from issues such as racism in education, cop violence, and the role of capitalism in perpetuating both. Their real aim is to slander the struggle for Black rights and cut off its ability to gain allies. The rulers are also attempting to use the attack on Jeffries to limit academic freedom and put a chill on the open discussion of ideas.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Defeat of Coup in USSR: Victory by Soviet Workers.** Speaker: George Buchanan, *Militant* staff writer. Sun., Sept. 15, 4 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

#### Pittsburgh

**Stop Right-Wing Terror in Wichita! Defend Abortion Rights!** Speakers: Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local #8-74; activists recently returned from clinic defense in Wichita, Kansas. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Hear the Socialist Candidates: The Fight for a Better World Is the Struggle for Socialism.** Speakers: Willie Mae Reid, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Houston; Steve R. Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Houston City Controller. Sat., Sept. 7. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

### BRITAIN

#### London

**Far Right Mobs Attack U.S. Abortion Clinics. The Fight for Democratic Rights Today.** Speaker: Marcella Fitzgerald, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

### CANADA

#### Vancouver

**Solidarity with the Postal Workers.** Panel discussion with unionists. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Wellington

**Eyewitness Report on ANC Conference in South Africa.** Speaker: Ron Burgess, New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Secretary-Treasurer. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$2. Tel: (4) 844-205.

## CALENDAR

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Rally and Demonstration. "Defend Abortion Rights. Stop the Gag Rule."** Sept. 7, noon. 8 S. Michigan Ave. Sponsor: Emergency Clinic Defense Coalition.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**The Cuban Revolution Today: Accomplishments and Current Challenges.** Speaker: Rafael López Valdés, member of Governing Council, Cuban Academy of Sciences, author of *Africans in Cuba*. Sat., Sept. 14, 7 p.m. 1606 Walnut St., AFSCME DC 47 Hall. Sponsor: Philadelphia Committee to Welcome Dr. López. Tel: (215) 951-1279, 884-3389.

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

### BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 71-401 2293.

**Manchester:** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

**Sheffield:** 1 Gower St., Sheffield S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

### CANADA

**Montréal:** 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Postal code: H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

**Toronto:** 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Postal code: M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

**Vancouver:** 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Postal code: V5V 3C7. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

### ICELAND

**Reykjavík:** Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Tel: (91) 17513.

### NEW ZEALAND

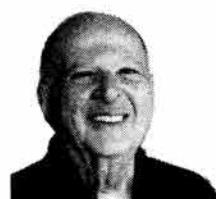
**Auckland:** 157a Symonds St. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

**Christchurch:** 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

**Wellington:** 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 844-205.

# —THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Truly — In Baltimore, a homeless man jailed on suspicion of setting fire to a car was held for a year



Harry  
Ring

without being formally charged, assigned a lawyer, or given a trial. When he was finally arraigned, the judge said, "This is a nightmare. He was lost in the system."

Full speed ahead — In July,

Southern Pacific railroad had two California derailments. One poured a lethal pesticide dose into the Sacramento River. In the other, punctured drums of chemicals drove scores of families from their homes. In prior inspections, 83 percent of SP locomotives were found defective. Meanwhile, a federal rail safety chief cancelled an upcoming inspection when an SP exec complained the checkups were costing them money.

**Sheriffs will be sheriffs** — In the wake of protests, Timothy Nettleton, sheriff in the Boise, Idaho, area, apologized for a poster displayed in his office. Titled "Run

"Nigger Run," it depicted a Black person running inside the cross hairs of a gun. Initially, the sheriff refused to apologize. "It don't bother me if they think it's racist," he declared. "It ain't."

**Free-market medicine** — In Florida, 45 percent of doctors own shares in diagnostic imaging laboratories, special treatment centers, etc. It was found that the doctor-owned labs were used more frequently than others, charged higher fees, employed less skilled technicians, and offered little access to the poor.

**The perception thing** — The Agriculture Department is alarmed at the number of folk who are

alarmed by widespread poultry contamination. Announcing a look-see, an official said they want to determine "to what degree there is a perception problem versus a real problem."

**Allowed by who?** — "Contaminated butter, cheese, and other dairy products could be reaching the nation's groceries because processing plants are being allowed to operate under unsanitary conditions," Agriculture Department investigators say." — News item.

**Where does the chauffeur sit?** — Time was when the ads explained that the Bentley was the same as the Rolls Royce, but had a different

front grille for those who were "dified" about driving a Rolls. Now the Bentley has its own body design. A two-door sedan, \$249,800.

**\$5,000 misunderstanding** — What with the "misperceptions" it created, Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson gave up on organizing a "Governor's Council." A \$5,000 membership fee would have been good for quarterly briefings by the guv and top aides. One aide said he'd be talking with those folks who already coughed up the \$5,000, and was confident most would say, "Keep it."

## Los Angeles man arrested filming cop brutality

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The sheriff's deputies who killed Arturo Jiménez got a bad jolt when they saw Salvador Salas filming with his video camera. They made sure they got the film.

They no doubt breathed a sigh when they found that Salas had not filmed the actual killing. He had arrived on the scene in response to the gunfire.

Salas took time out for a *Militant* interview while attending a benefit for Mark Curtis, the packinghouse worker who was railroaded to jail in Iowa. Salas showed his video film at the benefit. It has also been shown on TV and at various gatherings.

Arturo Jiménez was gunned down by two Los Angeles County deputy sheriffs the night

of August 3 at Ramona Gardens, a low-income housing project whose residents are mainly Chicano.

Jiménez was attending a lawn birthday party when the deputies' patrol car came by without lights. A beer bottle assertedly struck the side of the car. The cops got out and began beating one of the party-goers. Jiménez objected and was shot three times in the chest. In the melee that erupted after the killing, one of the cops was knocked unconscious.

Later authorities claimed Jiménez was shot after he grabbed a flashlight from one of the deputies and knocked him unconscious with it. Those attending the party say that's a flat-out lie.

The killing occurred in front of the building where Salas lives. He was already in bed,

but when he heard the shots, he said, he awoke, "and my camera was all ready to go."

Salas, 31, a gym instructor and mural painter, has lived in Ramona Gardens since he was 11 and has seen other incidents of police brutality.

When he began filming, Salas said, the cops didn't move immediately to stop him. Instead several tried to thwart the camera by shining their powerful flashlights at its lens.

But Salas got enough on film to show some of the cop brutality that followed the killing and, also, to refute the police claim that after the shooting they were confronted by a "mob" of 300. "You can see on the film," Salas said, "there were 50 people there, 60 at most."

Salas kept filming "until I heard some cops say they wanted to get that camera. I started to walk away. They followed me and said, 'Let's see that camera.'

"I said, 'no.'"

A cop tackled him, but Salas broke free. Another cop grabbed him but he managed to pass the camcorder to his brother, Guillermo.

"Guillermo took maybe five steps when two cops, one on each side, put guns to his head and told him to hand over the camera," Salas said.

Both brothers were handcuffed and dragged off.

Guillermo was not beaten, but Salvador

was kneed in the back and stomped on the neck.

Others were also beaten and arrested. One arrest is recorded on Salas' film. "It's my friend Leo," he said. "He has polio. He wears a steel brace on his leg and he can only walk with a cane. Two cops dragged him on the ground while handcuffed."

Why did they grab Leo?

He was trying to administer life support to Arturo Jiménez who laid on the ground a good half hour before an ambulance came for him.

Leo, Salvador, and Guillermo were charged with battery — assaulting an officer. They were held in jail for two-and-a-half days.

Leo, Salas said, "was pretty beat up. He has bruises all over his back. We've got pictures of it."

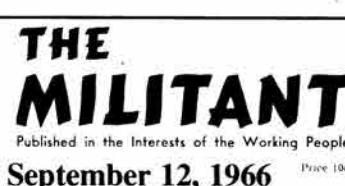
Salas didn't get to make a phone call until he was in jail two days. "You're entitled to a call after you're booked," he said. "But when I talked to the jailer, he said, 'We don't give phone calls around here.'"

Salas, his brother, and Leo were slated for arraignment on the battery charges August 30.

(The cops did return the camera and video saying they had to seize it as "evidence." They said they had made a copy.)

Discussing protests against the killing, Salas said, "I hope something comes out of it. I hope the ones who killed Arturo get what they deserve. That they're put behind bars."

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



The September 4 bombing of the national headquarters of the Communist party in New York should be a matter of grave concern to everyone who stands for freedom in this country.

The bomb, which exploded in the middle of the night, wrecked the office of *The Worker*, which will be compelled to skip at least an issue.

The explosion was the second of its kind in four months. In addition, a fire was set in front of the building two years ago. Shortly after the fire, a *Worker* staff member received a package in the mail containing a highly lethal bomb which, luckily, was discovered before being opened.

There has not been a single arrest in any of these cases. James Jackson, publisher of *The Worker*, correctly points to the fact that the FBI has the headquarters under "every known form of surveillance" at all hours and should therefore have information as to who planted the bomb.

Despite its enormous resources and loudly trumpeted crime detection prowess, the FBI has proven singularly ineffective in apprehending right-wing and racist bombers.



September 13, 1941

One of the charges in the indictment obtained July 15 by the government against 29 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and

the Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union, Local 544-CIO, is based on the organization of a Union Defense Guard in Minneapolis.

Roosevelt is today devoting all his energies to driving the country into a war which he claims is "against fascism." The facts show that the Union Defense Guard referred to was organized to defend the labor movement in Minneapolis against attacks by American fascist groups.

The guard was organized by members of the Minneapolis General Drivers Union, Local 544, AFL, in August 1938, as the outgrowth and the answer to a series of vigilante and fascist threats of violence against Local 544 locally, and of actual vigilante attacks on unions in other parts of the nation during the summer of 1938.

In the spring and summer of 1938, the fascist Silver Shirts were carrying on an energetic organizing campaign in the Twin Cities. In addition to the Silver Shirts, the Associated Farmers group was also active in Minnesota during this period.

The union felt that the Silver Shirts and other vigilante groups would learn of the organization of the guard and that such knowledge would dampen their ardor for an attack on the union headquarters and the union leaders. This proved to be the case, for the Silver Shirts discontinued their public activities in Minneapolis.

It is not the guard itself that Roosevelt fears, but the idea contained in its formation, that the working class can trust nothing but its own organized strength in the fight against its enemies.

This he recognizes as a real threat against his plans to drag the American people into a war for imperialist profit. This is why he distorts the facts, prosecutes the 29 defendants and tries to smash the Socialist Workers Party.

### Militant Prisoner Fund

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the costs of providing *Militant* subscriptions to prisoners.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

## Independent labor action

Unionists from across the country poured into Washington, D.C., August 31 for Solidarity Day '91. Tens of thousands saw the march and rally as a chance to show their opposition to the continuing employer-government assault on their unions, standard of living, and democratic rights, and to discuss with others how to combat the attacks.

While the top union officials who spoke at the event mentioned some facts on the toll this offensive is taking on working people, none offered an alternative course for the labor movement.

Instead, they promoted a deepening of the policies and political outlook they have promoted for decades: tying labor more closely to reliance on the two-party setup of big business and "friends" in Congress, collaboration with the employers to make "our" economy healthy, and making "America strong again."

The fact that 250,000 union members turned out for the event demonstrates that tens of millions of workers see the employers' offensive as a real threat. Many want to wage a fight to turn the retreat of the labor movement around. The turnout comes in spite of the fact that the labor tops have done nothing to organize the kind of real battles necessary to defend the unions today or begun to put these mass organizations at the center of a struggle to defend the interests of all working people.

A fighting labor movement can only be built by relying on the independent organization and mobilization of working people. It begins by recognizing that "we" are the workers and oppressed peoples of the world and that America is class divided: the billionaire ruling families that run this country have no common interests with the working class.

The domestic and foreign policy of the ruling rich and their government in Washington have common goals. They seek to make working people pay for the deepgoing crisis of world capitalism. Imperialist war, racism, attacks on democratic rights, union-busting, and bleeding the semicolonial world through the massive foreign debt are some examples of the lengths the capitalists are willing to go to try to reverse their declining rate of profit.

Reliance on the electoral setup of the ruling rich or organizing to protect an ever shrinking number of unionized workers by accepting concessions to protect "our" companies will only lead to further retreat and weakening of the labor movement.

Breaking from this framework and charting a course of building the independent industrial and political organization of the working class is a fundamental step needed today. Only by relying on the independent organization and mobilization of broad layers of the working class can a fight against the employer-government offensive be waged.

Such a fighting labor movement could join in a struggle with working people and the oppressed at home and around the globe. It would demand measures aimed at uniting working people, thus breaking down divisions the employers foster and rely on to weaken the unions.

Fighting for affirmative action in employment, housing, and education; demanding a shorter workweek with no cut in pay; and championing the call to cancel the foreign debt of semicolonial countries are three central ways the labor movement can unite workers the world over in a common struggle against capitalism and the attendant evils it brings.

## Support Canadian postal workers

The 46,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) are fighting a battle against Canada Post, a government-run corporation. This fight deserves the backing of the entire North American labor movement.

As we go to press, the CUPW rejected the latest contract offer by Canada Post. The union's officials have called on the membership to resume the rotating strikes they began August 24.

After working under an expired contract since Aug. 1, 1989, with no wage increase since 1988, the workers are demanding a decent contract with modest wage increases and cost-of-living adjustments.

They are fighting to stop Canada Post's plans to extend the use of part-time jobs and "casual labor," contracting out the work, and the stepped-up harassment and firing of workers. Unionists are calling on Canada Post to expand its door-to-door delivery to households in small communities.

The postal workers are fighting against the federally imposed 3 percent wage cap as well. Workers throughout

Canada are watching this battle to see if this wage cap can be overturned and if the demands of the postal workers are met. A victory will give them confidence to wage their own struggles.

The government-run corporation has already begun hiring scabs, revealing its determination to set back the struggle of the postal workers.

After a street battle between strikers and the police in Montréal, the corporation called the union in for negotiations, only to continue offering the same contract that CUPW members rejected earlier. Unionists will now face renewed efforts on the part of Canada Post and the government to end the strike.

The weight of the labor movement in Canada and the United States can help tip the scales toward victory for these workers and thus help to insure a victory for us all.

Working people should lend their support to the Canadian postal workers' fight, join picket lines, and get out news of the struggle.

## Blacks and anti-Semitism

The ruling class in New York is working overtime to portray the social explosion that took place in Crown Heights as an anti-Semitic outpouring from the Black community. This is not the case.

The rebellion took place in the context of increasing class polarization in the United States as seen in the unequal conditions of poverty, unemployment, and poor housing suffered by the majority of the Black residents of Crown Heights.

The slanders in the big-business media are aimed at covering the real causes of this crisis and justifying the brutal, indiscriminate use of police force against the Black youth who rebelled against these conditions.

The anti-Semitic remarks of college professor Leonard Jeffries, who is Black, have only aided the rulers in their efforts to obscure the real reasons for Black inequality and exploitation. This is nothing new for the ruling class. Anti-Semitism has long been one of its key weapons against working people.

The source of anti-Semitism is not working people, Black or white. This cancer is brought into the working class by the ruling rich through their various middle-class representatives of all nationalities who attempt to speak to and for working people.

Although the U.S. capitalist ruling class cynically postures as defenders of Jews, they are thoroughly anti-Semitic, as the makeup of their highest councils and transcripts of their private discussions indicate. The ruling class will turn on the Jews tomorrow by tolerating or supporting ultrarightist groups who explicitly scapegoat Jews for the ills inherent in the evolution of capitalism.

The rift between Blacks and Jews is a reflection of the class polarization that continues to deepen in the United States. It is a myth that Blacks, who suffer from racism as a group, and Jews, who suffer anti-Semitism as a group, share a common oppression. They do not. The myth ignores the evolution of the class composition of Blacks and Jews in the United States since World War II. In the closing decade of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, a substantial majority of the Jewish population in this country were workers. This is no longer the case.

Today the Jewish population in the United States is made up overwhelmingly of middle-class and professional layers. Blacks, on the other hand, remain overwhelmingly proletarian. They are a nationally oppressed and superexploited section of the U.S. working class, and the most class conscious and militant vanguard of that class.

The change in the class makeup of the Jewish population in the United States since World War II is the basis for the rightward political direction of the major Jewish organizations and major sections of the Jewish population. Within this class framework, Zionism and defense of national dispossession of the Palestinians by Israel provide an added impulse to the adoption by many Jews of right-wing positions against national liberation struggles, apologies for racial discrimination against peoples of color, and support for U.S. imperialism.

The rebellion in Brooklyn was fueled by the inequality suffered by Blacks in the community, inequalities that stand in stark contrast to the conditions in the Lubavitcher religious sect's enclave in Crown Heights.

These unequal conditions are backed up by city hall and enforced by the police along with the Lubavitcher's own armed patrols that operate in the community.

Anti-Semitism has deep historic roots under capitalism. In times of deepening social and economic crises the capitalists stoke the flames of anti-Semitism. Their aim is to use Jews as scapegoats for the crimes of the capitalist system. In doing this, they find willing compliance from various other middle-class layers in society who speak for the rulers and attempt to gain the ear of the working class.

Jeffries' reactionary conspiracy theories about Jews aid the rulers by obscuring an understanding of capitalism and lets the capitalist system off the hook. At the same time his statements put wind in the sails of those who wish to clamp down on academic freedom and limit democratic rights.

Working-class opponents of racism and anti-Semitism must battle uncompromisingly against anti-Semitism in the battle to unify the working class against all forms of oppression and bigotry promoted by the ruling class to divide and weaken the fighting capacity of working people.

## Russian revolution as seen through those who made it

"A cynic has said that we learn from history that people learn nothing from history," wrote Farrell Dobbs in *Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years, 1848-1917* (Pathfinder, \$15.95). "This may well be the case if one's insights into the historical process depend exclusively upon knowledge derived from academic and bourgeois sources, which ignore or downplay the central role of the class struggle as its motive force and a workers' government as its inevitable end product."

Dobbs, who was a Teamsters union leader and a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party, described the purpose of this book as follows:

"This study of the struggle for revolutionary Marxist continuity in the United States has been written from the

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

viewpoint of the historic line of march of the working class.

"Because of the retarded ideological state of the United States working class compared to its counterparts in many other countries, its inability so far to break loose from the Democratic and Republican political machines and establish a mass independent labor party, and the small size of the revolutionary socialist forces within it, it may seem that very little or no progress has been made toward these goals. That would be a superficial estimate. So sterile and pessimistic a view is not warranted," Dobbs said.

"The various and repeated attempts of the working class and its most advanced leaders to promote and reinforce its independent industrial and political organization have left their mark. This achievement is most evident of course in the trade union field. When the ranks are aroused and set into motion, the U.S. union movement is one of the most powerful, well-organized, and combative against the corporations and their government in the world. What it still lacks to realize its potential is the proper kind of leadership."

Later, in the chapter titled "First Workers' State," Dobbs described the kind of example set for labor around the world when workers and farmers carried out the October 1917 revolution and, under the Bolshevik Party's leadership, began to take the reins of society into their own hands, displaying the very capacities Dobbs predicted U.S. workers will one day reveal. The following are excerpts.

\* \* \*

Although the October insurrection ended capitalist use of the government against the workers, it did not follow that they could achieve full economic supremacy in one stroke. More was involved than the seizure of capitalist industry by the soviet regime. For this step to become practical, the workers first needed to gain experience in administering the national economy while most factories remained temporarily capitalist owned.

To carry out the desired measures in the industrial sphere, Lenin explained, revolutionary democracy had to be applied so the masses could develop confidence in their own strength. In addition to their other functions, the trade unions had to become schools for managing the economy. The workers had to be schooled in the art of administration in handling overall management of production and distribution. Toward that end their control over the bosses had to be extended at once to every facet of industry and trade. Knowledge acquired through such activities would prepare them to administer the whole economic structure, and all capitalist enterprises could then be expropriated.

Quick action was taken by the soviet government to set this process into motion. By official decree workers' control was established over all industrial, commercial, banking, and agricultural enterprises employing five or more people. Committees elected by the workers in these enterprises were authorized to keep a constant eye on company books, records, inventories, etc.; ferret out secrets kept from them by the bosses; and see that all operations were conducted in the public interest.

Disputes with individual employers were handled by the factory committees. Where necessary they conducted strikes to enforce their demands.

The bourgeoisie tried to resist imposition of workers' control by disruption of industrial production, openly or covertly. The government retaliated by confiscating the property holdings of the most incorrigible capitalist saboteurs.

Measures were also taken by the new regime to eradicate bourgeois financial domination over the country. A state bank — designed to provide a means for national accounting of production and distribution — was organized under government control. The private banking system was then nationalized as the first step to absorb it into the new financial structure.

As a safeguard against undercover financial manipulations, members of the wealthy classes were ordered to keep their assets in the state bank. Limited withdrawals for living expenses were allowed. In the case of funds intended for use in production and trade, however, withdrawals had first to be approved by the organizations of workers' control. Persons who deceived the state had all their property confiscated, and they were made liable to imprisonment, military service at the front, or hard labor.

# Australia miners strike over threat to safety rules

This column is dedicated to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, or attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists faced with steep takeback demands, lockouts, and union-bust-

"employee representatives . . . [with] the right to discuss and make requests of management" as one voice on a Health and Safety Committee.

Both the Department of Mines and New South Wales state Liberal Party government have backed the employers' call to change the law.

The meeting of 800 miners at Appin was held several weeks

nating demand, falling prices, and increasing competition from U.S. coal companies — and soon, they fear, South African operations.

## Wisconsin garment workers strike

Garment workers in Racine, Wisconsin, have entered the third month of an important strike against the Rainfair company.

On June 20, the 136 members of Local 187 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) voted by a large majority to strike in response to the company's "final" giveback proposal.

According to the ILGWU's monthly newspaper, *Justice*, the central issue is the boss's desire to force workers to pay a greater share of health-care costs. Under Rainfair's proposals, employee payments for family health coverage would climb sharply during the contract and could eventually go over \$200 a month.

The company is also demanding a reduction in the number of paid holidays, changes in the pension fund, and greater leeway to contract out work from the plant.

The company offered workers a wage increase of 10 to 15 cents over the entire three-year contract. Workers at Rainfair have had only one wage hike in the last three contracts. The average wage at Rainfair now stands at \$6.60 an hour.

The union has filed unfair labor practice charges against Rainfair. This is the first strike waged by the local since 1934. Workers struck that year to win union recognition.

The company has attempted to bring some "replacement workers" into the plant, initially recruiting 15 from Olsten Temporary Services.

Unionists in Wisconsin have been showing their support through rallies and fund-raising efforts. Three hundred strikers and supporters rallied at the Racine Labor Center July 19.

The union has set up a fund to help strikers meet rent and food bills. To contribute, send donations to ILGWU, Local 187, 647 Virginia Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204.



Militant/Margrethe Siem  
Contingent of Communication Workers of America members at Solidarity Day '91 in Washington, D.C., August 31.

## West Virginia rally backs Steelworkers

Sixty people attended an August 13 rally in Fairmont, West Virginia, in support of members of Local 12475 of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), on strike against Helmick Co., a small steel foundry.

The unionists held a meeting at the nearby United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 31 headquarters and then joined pickets outside the plant for the spirited rally. Some 75 USWA members worked at the plant before the strike.

Members of the USWA, UMWA, International Union of Electronic Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers members recently on strike against Giant Eagle stores, and other unionists attended the event. Workers at Helmick set up picket lines June 16 after the company attempted to unilaterally impose a steep concession package on the local.

Even though the union said the membership would accept a 10 percent pay and benefits cut, the company continued to press for a 25 percent reduction. One Friday last June, Helmick management posted a notice stating that anyone who returned to their job the following Monday would be working under the company's new terms.

Steelworkers have posted round-the-clock pickets at the plant since, refusing to submit to the company's demands. Helmick responded immediately by calling in Vance, the notorious strikebreaking firm.

Over the next weeks the company began recruiting scabs. The courts, the cops, and big-business media have backed Helmick's anti-union drive.

When union members accused one scab of brandishing a gun, boss David Helmick insisted it was only a pipe wrench. Several days later the same scab was charged with attempted murder of a union member and his brother after a late-night ambush of the two that left the striker's brother in critical condition.

The court has issued a number of injunctions against the union, agreeing to company charges that steelworkers are guilty of intoxication, vandalism, and violence on the picket line.

USWA officials agreed to limit the number of pickets to six, and that all of them will be Helmick workers. Many UMWA members had participated in picketing prior to this decision.

Lyn Scott and Bob Andrews from Sydney; Brian Williams; and Diana Cantú from Fairmont, West Virginia, contributed to this week's column.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

ing moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that, too.

Coal miners from the Southern District of the United Mine Workers Federation of Australia met at Appin, just south of Sydney, August 7 to protest changes in safety legislation being proposed by the mine owners in New South Wales. A series of strikes were called by the union in response to the employer demands.

The coal bosses have declared that the New South Wales Coal Mines Regulation Act is "an impediment to efficiency." They propose changes that would scrap existing, detailed, operational requirements on the mining management and would diminish the role and powers of government inspectors. The goal of the changes is "to achieve absolute employer responsibility" for health and safety.

Union District Check Inspectors currently have the statutory power to halt mining operations. Under the bosses' proposal this power would be removed, and the local check inspectors would be replaced by

after a disaster in which three miners were killed at the giant South Bulli mine.

"This meeting is about whether some of you mine workers here today will be alive next week," Malcolm Loy, a Southern District Check Inspector, told the meeting. "If these proposed changes come to pass, a number of you people will be dead because of the actions of the Coal Association."

"Coal owners want to go back to the turn of the century when there was no regulation and the health and safety of miners was left to various mine managements," he said.

Glen Dwyer, another District Check Inspector, caught the mood of the meeting when he said that the bosses "have attacked us in every way — they started with working hours, then wages and living standards, then compensation. Now they want blood. We'll fight this with everything we've got."

In the weeks following the meeting miners held protest strikes across New South Wales. Three thousand Southern District miners stayed out from August 7–11. In the union's Western District based in Lithgow some 1,400 miners struck August 12–13, while in the Northern District, based in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley, the 5,000 union members went out August 19–20.

Australia is the largest exporter of coal in the world. Coal operators in New South Wales and Queensland are big players in the world coal market, where they are facing stag-

## LETTERS

### On anti-Semitism

The back-page article in the August 16 *Militant* on the New Jersey 100-mile protest march against police killings referred to the anti-Jewish remarks of a Nation of Islam representative. It then quoted Socialist Workers Party state assembly candidate Al Duncan as saying, "This kind of anti-Semitism is reactionary and divisive."

I'm sure Duncan didn't mean it that way, but a new reader might wonder if there were other "kinds" of anti-Semitism that were more acceptable or even useful.

In view of the cynical propaganda of apologists for Israel, who falsely equate anti-Zionism with hatred of Jews and denounce supporters of the Palestine struggle for self-determination as "anti-Semitic," the careless phrasing attributed to Duncan leaves an opening for those who claim their hostility to Jews stems from a sympathy for Palestine.

Peter Buch  
Albany, California

the trap of anti-Semitism, explaining it is reactionary in all its forms, diverting activists from exposing the cops, local governments, and the wealthy families they protect, and opening up those fighting for justice to the false charge of being "racists in reverse."

### Relies on 'Militant'

Kindly send me the September 28, 1990 issue of the *Militant*, which carries the article "U.S. peace delegation to Korea calls on Washington to withdraw troops."

Enclosed is a one-year subscription renewal and a contribution to the Militant Prisoner Fund. I still rely on the *Militant* for my information and political analysis.

M.S.  
Duluth, Minnesota

### Pan Am Games

The following are quotes from an article which appeared in the August 18, 1991, *Toronto Star*, a major Canadian daily. The article was entitled, "Cuba's Games prove the critics wrong":

"But as far as Canadians and Americans are concerned these Games will be remembered for trying to break down the fears and suspicions they held of Cuba."

"Mike Moran, press officer with the United States Olympic Committee, told the *Star*: 'These Games opened a lot of eyes for the 2,000

Americans who came here and we had no complaints. And in many ways the Games here were better run than in Indianapolis four years earlier.'

"What has happened here in the last 3 weeks cannot be measured by the medals," said Diana Duerkop, the head of Canada's contingent. "Many of our athletes will be returning home with a different perspective of Cuba. They were invited into Cuban homes and they couldn't believe how friendly they were. We didn't see any signs of poverty or of dictatorship we were told about."

"We will be returning with many great memories of this country," she added."

Al Cappe  
Toronto, Canada

### Good on Yugoslavia

Enclosed is a one-year subscription renewal. You've had very good coverage of Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Ethiopia. I've also decided to purchase Leon Trotsky's *The Balkan Wars* from Pathfinder.

D.C.  
Lapeer, Michigan

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## From our readers behind bars

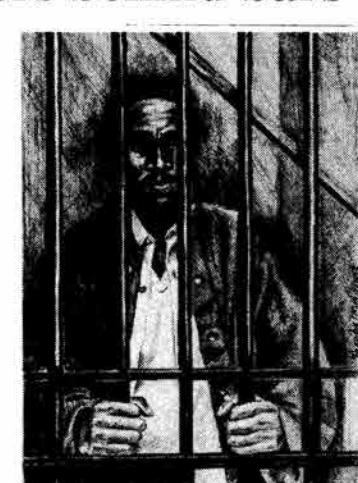
### Voice of voiceless

Please discontinue sending me the *Militant* in prison as I will be released on parole very soon.

I'll no longer be just a spectator on the sidelines. I will actually be participating in the struggle that oppressed people face here in Amerikkka.

There is no doubt in my mind that your newspaper is the voice of the voiceless. I extend my love to the reporters of the *Militant* for making it all possible.

A prisoner  
Crescent City, California



### Soviet coverage poor

Your coverage on Cuba and South Africa is the best on the Left, as was your coverage on Nicaragua (don't forget about them; the struggle is not over!).

Your coverage of the Soviet Union is poor and superficial, although your theoretical analysis is largely correct. Socialism is not so weak there as you think.

Gorbachev's and Yeltsin's popularity there, like George Bush's here, may be a mile wide, but it's only an inch deep. Don't write off the Soviet working class yet; there is still a lot of real socialist ferment going on that may yet turn things around. Es-

pecially if the imperialists screw up by demanding too much and giving too little, as they seem to be doing.

A prisoner  
Stormville, New York

### Soviet coup analysis

Please be advised of my new address. I ask that you expedite my address change as soon as possible, in light of the recent coup in the Soviet Union. I am looking forward to your analysis of this situation.

A prisoner  
Canton, New York

*Editor's note*—We appreciate reader Buch bringing this error to our attention. Duncan was misquoted; it is not his position nor the position of the Socialist Workers Party.

In the course of participating in numerous anti-police-brutality protests in New Jersey, in fact, Duncan has spoken out several times against

# Canada postal strikers defend union

## Strikers put up resistance to company moves, reject latest contract offer

BY SUSAN BERMAN  
AND MAGGIE TROWE

TORONTO — The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) rejected the latest contract offer from Canada Post September 2 and called on union members to return to the picket lines.

After suspending the rotating strikes conducted by locals across Canada for three days to conduct negotiating sessions with the company, CUPW officials called Canada Post's offer "essentially the same" as previous proposals.

The 5,000-strong Montréal local, which voted August 24 to stay out for the duration, continued picketing throughout the three days. Three locals in Ontario took a similar step.

Over the last week strikers have mounted substantial resistance on picket lines which limited Canada Post's capacity to move mail and get management and scabs into the postal centers. As many as 25,000 workers were on the picket lines.

Postal workers have been working without a contract since August 1, 1989. They began a rotating strike August 24 demanding an end to contracting-out, conversion of nearly 3,000 part-time and casual jobs to full-time positions, an end to harassment and unjust firings, and restoration and expansion of postal services.

They also are demanding wage increases of 19 percent over four years and a 17-cent cost of living adjustment rolled into their wages which average \$14.24 an hour.

For the past two years, hundreds of full-time jobs have been eliminated with more work being carried out by part-timers or casual labor, both of which are union members. Part-timers receive all benefits except pensions, while casual workers receive no benefits and are on call.

### Propoganda moves fail

In an effort to discredit the union and the strike, Canada Post opened up mail distribution centers in malls and warehouses throughout the country even though the CUPW had offered to sort and deliver pension, unemployment, and welfare checks. They aimed to portray the strike as primarily hurting those dependent on these sources of income and the postal workers as uncaring and greedy.

Several strikers said that to further this campaign, supervisors withdrew pension checks that were ready to be delivered just before the strike.

From the first day Canada Post's plan backfired. In Toronto and Winnipeg, long line-ups shaped up for hours in the summer heat. Many among the thousands of old age pensioners who stood in line to get their pension checks found out their checks were not there. Some mail centers never opened.

CUPW members set up informational picket lines to inform people picking up their mail of the stakes in the strike. Canada Post has tried to turn public sentiment against the strikers and to provoke conflicts between the pickets and people seeking their checks. But the postal workers kept insisting on their willingness to deliver the checks.

On August 30, Canada Post reversed its policy and allowed letter carriers to deliver checks. The union's policy was to deliver the checks as a volunteer act to provide an essential service. But Canada Post insisted on paying letter carriers \$100 a day "honorariums." Some carriers decided to give their checks to charity.

Montréal letter carrier Luc Brien explained, "I'm not working because of the money. It's not right to make the people wait for their money."

In an effort to keep mail moving during the strike, Canada Post hired scabs across the country. Police and company goons have helped try to escort the mail and strike-breaking workers through picket lines.

Pickets successfully blocked the trucks from coming into the sorting facilities in many locations. They also set up picket lines outside

many truck firms contracting to Canada Post.

Canada Post won a temporary court injunction August 27 limiting picketing at the entrances of Toronto's Gateway and South Central mail sorting plants. The court action followed several days of violent attacks by police and company thugs on strikers attempting to prevent scabs and mail from moving in and out of postal facilities.

Canada Post also obtained court injunctions limiting pickets to 10 per entrance in Montréal and three per gate at the main facilities in the Vancouver area.

On August 30, Ontario judge Robert Montgomery significantly escalated the assault, issuing a temporary total ban on picketing at the three principal Toronto-area postal plants "to keep a lid on a volatile situation." Montgomery characterized the strike as a "mob scene." CUPW Vice President Darryl Tingley called the ban a "draconian measure" and said the union would fight the decision.

### 800 workers defend picket line

In Montréal, more than 800 postal workers rallied outside a major sorting station August

29 and prevented an anti-riot squad and 80 police from escorting scabs and mail trucks out of the building for more than three hours.

As the riot police assembled, strikers built barricades from sheet metal and bleachers from a nearby baseball park to block the passage of police vehicles and set bonfires in the streets.

The Montréal daily *La Presse* reported that the postal facility was damaged by a hail of rocks, Molotov cocktails, and manhole covers.

Eventually police succeeded in pushing back the demonstrators and escorting the scabs out of the building, but no arrests were made.

Many workers are watching the outcome of this fight because the federal government and most provincial governments have imposed wage freezes limiting increases for government workers to a maximum of 3 percent.

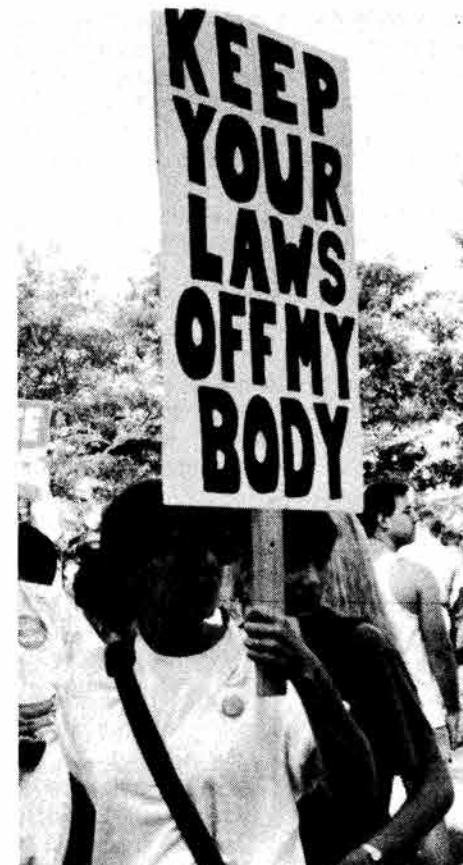
As Scott, a letter carrier for 15 years, walking the picket line at the Toronto South Central plant, explained, "They always start with the post office. If they can knock us

down a few pegs they can make it harder for everyone else — harder for the TTC [Toronto Transit Commission] workers, harder for the city workers." The TTC workers are fighting against the imposition of part-time work. Their contract expires September 8.

On August 31 negotiations resumed after Canada Post signalled it would make a new offer. The day before federal Labor Minister Marcel Danis issued a veiled threat that if negotiations didn't progress in the next few days the government would impose a settlement, as they did in the 1987 inside workers' strike.

Up to 100,000 members of the Public Sector Alliance of Canada (PSAC), which has refused to accept the federal government's wage freeze, will be in legal position for a strike after Labor Day. PSAC carried out cross-Canada demonstrations July 25 against the wage freeze. Last week 5,000 Montréal city maintenance workers began the latest of a series of sporadic work stoppages and slowdowns to protest the Québec provincial wage freeze and to demand a 35-hour week.

# Anti-abortion leaders leave Wichita



Militant/Steve Marshall  
Participant in August 24 pro-choice rally

BY JULIETTE MONTAUK  
AND MARY ZINS

WICHITA, Kansas — Four national leaders of Operation Rescue remaining in Wichita left town in accordance with a court order from Federal Judge Patrick Kelly August 30.

Three of the four leaders, Keith Tucci, Joe Slovenec, and Patrick Mahoney, had been released from jail the previous day on condition that they would not violate a court injunction prohibiting them from blocking two clinics that perform abortions.

The leaders were in jail for not posting a \$100,000 "peace bond" that Judge Kelly imposed as part of the injunction against sustained rightist mobilizations organized by Operation Rescue at the clinics.

Kelly ordered the four out of town because of statements they made in an interview on the local news. The judge said he did not believe they would honor their agreement to stay away from the clinics.

At a news conference in Washington, D.C., Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry said his organization would now target another city for "Wichita Strategy"

protests at abortion clinics in the coming year.

Terry and Mahoney credited the Wichita offensive with generating momentum needed to expand Operation Rescue's activities and with raising the group's profile.

"The Wichita protest proved — we are to be considered seriously," explained Mahoney.

Since July 15 ultrarightist forces laid siege to Wichita with their campaign focused on closing three clinics. One clinic, run by Dr. George Tiller, is one of only three in the United States that performs third-trimester abortions.

In the last few weeks Operation Rescue has carried out an aggressive offensive in the streets against democratic rights. The immediate target of the rightists is to push back women's right to choose abortion and intimidate any women who seek abortions or support abortion rights.

In addition to blockading the clinics, 200 right-wing activists charged Tiller's clinic two weeks ago, breaking through police barricades. Twenty nearly made their way into the clinic. Judge Kelly and his wife have been physically threatened at their home. One clinic supporter was followed home and had her front storm door smashed. These few examples of the ultrarightists' campaign, one that is draped in "Christian values" and the "American way," highlight the broader threat to democratic rights posed by the mobilizations.

After several weeks of these attacks, 5,000 supporters of women's right to abortion rallied August 24 at Woodard Park here. The "Speak Out for Choice" was sponsored by the local Pro-Choice Action League and was attended by supporters of abortion rights from all over the Midwest and throughout the country.

A "Hope for the Heartland" rally the next day, organized to support Operation Rescue's mobilizations, drew 25,000.

After the rally one clinic was blocked by some rightists for several hours. Federal marshals and police finally maced the crowd, arresting 61. To date, 2,661 people have been arrested for blocking clinics. Some people have been arrested several times.

Since the August 25 blockade, there have been no assaults on the clinic. Each morning 50–80 rightists gather to pray, wave the American flag, and harass patients as they come into the clinic. A few pro-choice people also picket each day.

After the August 24 pro-choice rally dozens of participants went over to the clinic on their own to show their determination to stop

the assaults. The majority of people driving by honked their horns in support of abortion rights. One woman stopped to explain how happy she was that the pro-choice people were there. At one point the participants even took back the sidewalks surrounding the clinic when they out-numbered the right-wingers. No further response to the assaults has been organized.

Ted Leonard, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines, Iowa, school board, was one of many supporters who came in to be part of the fight to defend democratic rights.

"Supporters of my campaign have found widespread opposition to the assaults and majority backing of a woman's right to choose abortion," the candidate said. "This shows that the labor movement and all organizations that defend democratic rights can and must organize a much more massive response the next time such attacks occur."

### Cuba: Challenges facing the revolution in a changing world

**Mary-Alice Waters**

Editor of *New International*, recently returned from three weeks in Cuba.

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